PCT/DK 2004/000454



# Kongeriget Danmark

Patent application No.: PA 2004 00820

Date of filing: 25 May 2004

Applicant:
(Name and address)

Carlsberg A/S
Valby Langgade 1
DK-2500 Valby
Denmark

Title: Heterocyclic organic molecules through intramolecular formation of N-acyl imminium ions

IPC: -

This is to certify that the attached documents are exact copies of the above mentioned patent application as originally filed.


**Patent- og Varemærkestyrelsen**
Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet

19 July 2004

Susanne Morsing

PATENT- OG VAREMÆRKESTYRELSEN

**PRIORITY DOCUMENT**
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH
RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

# Heterocyclic organic molecules through intramolecular formation of N-acyl iminium ions

All patent and non-patent references cited in the application are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

## Field of invention

The present invention relates to scaffolds, such as scaffolds useful in the preparation of a combinatorial chemical library. In particular, the invention relates to precursor molecules capable of forming an intramolecular N-acyl iminium ion, wherein said N-acyl iminium ion is capable of undergoing a Pictet-Spengler reaction. The precursor molecules thus are useful for generating heterocyclic organic compounds.

The invention furthermore relates to methods of preparing said precursor molecules, methods of preparing heterocyclic organic compounds based on the scaffolds and methods of preparing libraries of heterocyclic organic compounds. The invention furthermore relates to heterocyclic organic compounds, libraries of heterocyclic organic compounds and uses of said compounds.

## Background of invention

One prime goal for solid-phase combinatorial synthesis is the identification and optimisation of pharmaceutical lead compounds. The high-speed generation of chemical libraries offered by solid-phase synthesis techniques may be highly efficient, since work-up and purification can be achieved by simple washing and filtration, and combinatorial chemistry is thus becoming an increasingly important tool for drug discovery. It is therefore of utmost importance that the applied reactions proceed in a clean and quantitative fashion. Today, solid-phase peptide synthesis is well-established, fulfilling this requirement with high efficiency, and to high levels of sophistication. However, in the search for new drugs, peptide isosters and mimetics incorporating heterocyclic motifs have attracted considerable attention, and the

clean transformation of short peptide strands into heterocycles have accordingly emerged as an increasingly important area of research.

Over the past hundred years, considerable interest has been given to the certain classes of heterocyclic ring-systems referred to as tetrahydroisoquinolines (THIQs) and tetrahydro-β-carbolines (THBCs), due to their presence in many naturally and synthetically derived molecules, which possess a wide range of biological properties and frequently hold promising pharmaceutical potential. For example, compounds constituted by THIQ ring structures have been reported to display anti-tumor and anti-microbial activity,(Scott, J.D.; Williams, R.M. *Chem. Rev.* **2002**, *102*, 1669-1730) stimulation of $\beta_3$ adrenergic receptors,(Parmee, E.R.; Brockunier, L.L.; Singh, S.B.; Candelore, M.R.; Cascieri, M.A.; Deng, L.; Liu, Y.; Tota, L.; Wyvratt, M.J.; Fisher, M.H.; Weber, A.E. *Biooganic Med. Chem. Lett.* **2000**, *10*, 2283-2286) and $5HT_{1A}$ receptor antagonism.(Mokrosz, M.J.; Duszynska, B.; Wesolowska, A.; Borycz, J.; Chojnacka-Wojcik, E.; Karolak-Wojciechowska, *J. Med. Chem. Res.* **2000**, *10*, 58-68) When inserted in a peptide, THIQ-3-carboxylic acids may restrict the number of conformations of the α-amino acid backbone,(Gibson, E.E.; Gullio, N.; Tozer, M.J. *Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 585) which may be important for enhanced pharmacological properties, as illustrated in certain δ-opioid receptor antagonists.(Salvadoli, S.; Balboni, G.; Guerrini, R.; Tomatis, R.; Bianchi, C.; Bryant, S.D.; Cooper, P.S.; Lazarus, L.H. *J. Med. Chem.* **1997**, *40*, 3100. THBCs exhibit significant bioactivities and pharmacological properties, particularly in the central nervous system with known interactions at benzodiazeoine,(Braestrup, C.; Nielsen, M.; Olsen, C.E. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **1980**, *77*, 2228. Braestrup, C. *Neurochem.* **1981**, *37*, 333.) serotonin,(For the inhibition of monoamine oxidase A and binding with nanomolar affinity to serotonin receptors, see: Ho, B.T. *J. Pharm. Sci.* **1972**, *61*, 821. For other examples of binding to serotonin receptors, consult Abou-Gharbia, M.; Patel, R.U.; Moyer, J.A.; Muth, T.A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1987**, *30*, 1100. Audia, J.E., Evrard, D.A.; Murdoch, G.R.; Droste, J.J.; Nissen, J.S.; Schenck, K.W.; Fludzinski, P.; Lucaites, V.L.; Nelson, D.L.; Cohen, M.L. *J. Med. Chem.* **1996**, *39*, 2773-2780), and dopamine receptors.(Abou-Gharbia, M.; Patel, R.U.; Webb, M.B.; Moyer, J.A.; Andree, T.H.; Muth, T.A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1987**, *30*, 1818.) THBCs bind to the $GABA_A$ receptor ion channel and may be involved in the molecular mechanisms controlling anxiety, convulsions and sleep (Ninan, P.T.; Insel, T.M.; Cohen, R.M.; Cook, J.M.;

Skolnick, P.; Paul, S.M. *Science* **1982**, *218*, 1332. Mendelsohn, W.B.; Cain, M.; Cook, J.M.; Paul, S.M. **1982**, *218*, 414.)

These core structures have attracted considerable attention, and effective synthetic methodology towards their formation has been developed. Since its discovery,(Pictet, A.; Spengler, T. *Ber.* **1911**, *44*, 2033-2036) the Pictet-Spengler reaction has been a widely used tool for the construction of THIQs and THBCs.(Cox, E.D.; Cook, J.M. *Chem. Rev.* **1995**, *95*, 1797-1842) Without the use of this powerful reaction for C-C bond formation, a number of total syntheses of highly complicated indole and isoquinoline derived alkaloids would have been difficult to achieve. To date, several solid-phase versions of the Pictet-Spengler reaction have been reported for the construction of THBCs. The typical approach comprises the Brønsted acid catalysed intermolecular condensation of an aldehyde with a solid-supported tryptophan moiety, (Kaljuste, K.; Undén, A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, *36*, 9211-9214. Yang, L.; Guo, L. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 5041-5044. Mayer, J.P.; Bankaitis-Davis, D.; Zhang, J.; Beaton, G.; Bjergarde, K.; Andersen, C.M.; Goodman, B.A.; Herrera, C.J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 5633-5636. Fantauzzi, P.P.; Yager, K.M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 1291-1294) or tryptamine derivative,(Wu, T.Y.H.; Schultz, P.G. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 4033-4036) followed by Pictet-Spengler cyclization. Typically, further solid-phase functionalisation of THBCs involve reactions of the β-amino group with acylation reagents, such as acid halides, sulfonyl chlorides, and isocyanates.(see e.g. Mohan, R.; Chou, Y.-L.; Morrissey, M.M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1996**, *37*, 3963-3966) Thus, CIP activated amino acids(Loevezijn, A. v.; Maarsveen, J.H.v; Stegman, K.; visser, G.M.; Koomen, G.-J. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1998**, *39*, 4737-4740), and amino acid chlorides have been employed for the synthesis of analogues of fumitremorgin, (Wang, H.; Ganesan, A. *Org. Lett.* **1999**, *1*, 1647-1649) and chloroformates towards tetrahydro-β-carbolinehydantoins.(Bonnet, D.; Ganesan, A. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2002**, *4*, 546-548. When the aldehyde part of the Pictet-Spengler reaction contains a latent amino functionality, the THBC core may also be incorporated between peptide strands, ideally to introduce conformational constraints to the peptide structure.(Li, X.; Zhang, L.; Zhang. W.; Hall, S.E.; Tam. J.P. *Org. Lett.* **2000**, *2*, 3075-3078.)

Fewer reports have dealt with the solid-phase synthesis of THIQs. For this purpose, the Bischler-Napieralsky reaction been exploited, but the method seems limited by

harsh reaction conditions ($POCl_3$, acid, elevated temperatures) and moderate yields.(Meutermanns, W.D.F.; Alewood, P.F. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1995**, *36*, 7709-7712. Rolfing, K.; Thiel, M.; Kunzer, H. *Synlett* **1996**, 1036-1037.) On the other hand, Pictet-Spengler reactions of electron-rich phenylethylamine derivatives have proven highly successful,(For the first example on solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions towards THIQs, and extensions into tetrahydroimidazopyridines, consult Hutchins, S.M.; Chapman, K.T. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1986**, *37*, 4865-4868. See also: Sun, Q.; Kyle, D.J. *Combinatorial Chemistry & High Throughput Screening* **2002**, *5*, 75-81, and Myers, A.G.; Lanman, B.A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 12969-12971, for recent applications) Thus, such intermolecular condensation reactions generally lead to formation of several stereoisomers. Generally, the formation of a new C-C bond of these processes generates a stereogenic centre of which the stereoisomeric purity is reflected by the ratio of the intermediate *cisoid* and *transoid* *N*-acyl-iminium ions.

As opposed to precedence in the field of solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions, our research group has reported the intermolecular condensation of a *solid-supported aldehydes* with tryptophan, tryptamine, and histidine derivatives.(Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 45-63). Simultaneously, we reported a highly efficient approach for solid-phase generation of aldehydes from masked aldehyde building blocks protected as their *N*-Boc *N,O*-acetals.(Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 34-44.) In order to conduct intermolecular synthetic transformations of aldehyde moieties attached to solid-supported peptides or peptide isosters, we noted the necessity of *N*-protection of the amide backbone to prevent undesired condensation reactions of amide-nitrogens with the aldehyde.

**Summary of the invention**

Interestingly, the present application discloses that intramolecular condensation reactions may be used to generate a cyclic (and thus stereoisomeric pure) *N*-acyl-imiacyl-iminium ion, which may serve as a highly reactive key intermediate for for example solid-phase synthesis of heterocyclic scaffolds. Thus in one aspect, the invention discloses solid-phase chemistry based on intramolecular condensation of an aldehyde with an amide nitrogen, where the generated *N*-acyl-iminium ion may

be trapped with carbon nucleophiles (for a general review regarding carbon nucleophiles, consult: Maryanoff, B.E.; Zhang, H.-C.; Cohen, J.H.; Turchi, I.J.; Maryanoff, C.A. *Chem. Rev.* **2004**, *104*, 1431-1628)The reaction products can be characterized as multicyclic lactams.

Following such solid-phase route to a cyclic *N*-acyl-iminium ion, for example a quantitative and highly stereoselective Pictet-Spengler reaction or another cationic cyclisation reaction may be brought about provided the presence of a neighboring nucleophillic group, such as an indole of a neighboring tryptophan, thereby appending two new *N*-fused rings to the indole moiety. Feasible structures are, for example, the 3-oxohexahydroindolizino[8,7-*b*]indole-5-carboxylate derivatives, which have been proposed as mimics of β-turns,(Figuera, N.D.I.; Alkorta, I.; García-López, M.T.; Herranz, R.; González-Muñiz, R. *Tetrahedron* **1995**, *51*, 7841-7856.) and demonstrated to be potent and selective CCK1 receptor antagonists when attached to peptides.(Martín-Martínez, M.; Figuera, N.D.I.; Latorre, M.; Herranz, R.; García-López, M.T.; Cenarruzabeitia, E.; Río, J.D.; González-Muñiz, R. *J. Med. Chem.* **2000**, *43*, 3770-3777. Solid-phase synthesis incorporating the 3-oxohexahydroindolizino[8,7-*b*]indole-5-carboxyl core within peptide strands has also been reported.(Grimes, J.H.; Angell, Y.M.; Kohn, W.D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2003**, *44*, 3835-3838.) Extension of this multi-component reaction to substituted indoles and other nucleophiles, such as other reactive heterocycles known to react in Pictet-Spengler condensation reactions, such as furanes,(Miles, W.H.; Heinsohn, S.K.; Brennan, M.K.; Swarr, D.T.; Eidam, P.M.; Gelato, K.A. *Synthesis* **2002**, 1541-1545, and references herein) and thiophenes,(consult for example: Othman, M.; Pigeon, P.; Decroix, B. *Tetrahedron* **1997**, *53*, 2495-2504), and electron-rich aromatic rings, provides a mild, efficient and rapid access to a range of pharmacologically interesting tri- and tetracyclic scaffolds or even scaffolds comprising more fused rings.

Hence, the present invention offers the possibility to prepare heterocyclic organic compounds on solid phase, wherein the sterochemistry can be controlled and heterocyclic organic compounds can be obtained as pure stereoisomers. It is of great advantage to prepare such compounds on solid phase, because it enables quick and fast recovery of the compounds. Furthermore, undesired cross-reactions are significantly reduced or totally avoided by performing intramolecular condensation on solid phase.

The site isolation on each molecule is achieved by its attachment to the 3-dimensional polymer network, such as a resin bead, that practically confer infinite size to each molecular entity. This has the effect that the molecule reacts much more slowly in a bimolecular reaction than the same molecule would do off bead in solution. Some reactions that may be carried out in solution with an acceptable yield simply will not perform on solid support. Therefore, on solid phase reactions are usually selected that are essentially quantitative, and free of side reactions that can compete in the solution phase This relation is reversed when a intramolecular reaction is considered. Here the reaction on the solid support is just as fast as in solution and competing bimolecular side reactions are still slow compared to solution reactions. Therefore a very clean and selective transformation may be obtained on solid support. The performance of a key reaction of this invention i. e. the intermediate formation of intramolecular N-acyl-iminium ions from an amide and an aldehyde and their condensation with a nucleophile is therefore quite selective and unique.

It is thus one objective of the present invention to provide a precursor molecule of the formula

[MABB-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

MABB is a masked aldehyde building block of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-AG-], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde,

$L_1$ is an aryl ring or alkyl chain comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

AG is an acidic group capable of forming an amide bond,

AA is an amino acid of the formula -NHCR$^1$R$^2$CO- and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

[-NH-$L_2$-Nu-], wherein

-NH is an amino group forming an amide,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system,

wherein NuBB is linked to $(AA)_n$ or if n=0 to MABB via an amide bond and with the proviso, that when x=0, then n is at least 1,

and wherein the masked aldehyde may be transformed into a free aldehyde, and the free aldehyde group is capable of interacting intramolecularly with an amide group, thereby forming an N-acyl-iminium ion,

and wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile for intramolecular reaction with said nucleophilic chemical entity,

Such a precursor molecule is in particular useful as a precursor for intramolecular condensation.

It is a second objective of the present invention to provide methods of preparing said precursor molecule, comprising the steps of

i) Providing a masked aldehyde building block (MABB) of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-$AG_2$], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde protected by an aldehyde protecting group,

$L_1$ is an aryl or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, S and O that may be substituted independently on each position, wherein x is an integer in the range of 1 to 10 wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

$AG_2$ is an acidic group capable of reacting with an amino group to form an amide,

ii) Providing a molecule of the structure $[-(AA)_n\text{-NuBB}]$, wherein

AA is an amino acid and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

$[-NH-L_2-Nu-]$, wherein

-NH- is an amino group forming an amide,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system,

wherein $(AA)_n$ is linked to NuBB via an amide bond

iii) Reacting said MABB with said molecule, thereby forming an amide bond between said MABB and said molecule

iv) Thereby obtaining a precursor molecule.

It is a third objective of the present invention to provide methods of preparing a heterocyclic organic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B share at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

a) Providing a precursor molecule as described by the present invention

b) Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde

c) Reacting said free aldehyde with an amide group within said precursor molecule, thereby obtaining an N-acyl-iminium ion, wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile

d) Performing an intramolecular nucleophilic reaction involving the N-acyl-iminium ion and the nucleophilic chemical entity forming a new covalent bond, thereby obtaining said cyclic organic compound.

It is a further objective of the present invention to provide compounds prepared by the method according to the invention, wherein said compound is a heterocyclic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, wherein said compound comprises or consists of

i) a 7,5, or a 7,6-bicyclic scaffold,

or,

ii) a 5,5,5-, a 5,6,5-, a 5,5,8-, or a 5,6,8-tricyclic scaffold,

or,

iii) a 6,5,5-, a 6,6,5-, a 6,5,8-, or a 6,6,8-tricyclic scaffold,

or,

iv) a 6,5,5,5-, a 6,5,6,5-, a 6,5,5,8-, a 6,5,6,8-tetracyclic scaffold,

or,

v) extensions of any of the scaffolds mentioned in a) to d) comprising at least one further ring fused to said scaffold,

wherein each of said scaffolds may be independently substituted on every position,

and wherein said compound is covalently attached to a solid support.

It is a still further objective of the present invention to provide methods of preparing a library comprising at least 2 different cyclic organic compounds each comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A is substituted with a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

a) Providing at least 2 different precursor molecules according to the invention
b) performing the method of preparing a heterocyclic compound for each of said precursor molecules
   i) thereby obtaining a library comprising at least 2 different cyclic organic compounds.

It is an even further objective of the present invention to provide a library of heterocyclic compounds prepared by said method.

It is another objective of the present invention to provide methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule naturally expressed on the surface of a cell, said method comprising the steps of

ii) Providing the library of heterocyclic compounds described by the invention,
iii) Providing a composition comprising said cell surface molecule,
iv) Incubating said library with said composition
v) Identifying heterocyclic compounds of said library capable of specifically associating with said cell surface molecule.

It is also an objective of the present invention to provide use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to said identification method for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a clinical condition in an individual in need thereof.

It is a still further objective of the present invention to provide use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to said identification method for affinity chromatography.

It is even a further objective of the present invention to provide use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to said identification method for affinity labelling.

**Description of Drawings**

Figure 1 illustrates synthetic use of the intramolecular aldehyde-amide N condensation

Figure 2 illustrates screening of acids (aq.) for aldehyde unmasking/N-acyl iminium ion mediated (modified) Pictet-Spengler reaction

Figure 3 illustrates HPLC examples of precursor molecules and product for the modified Pictet-Spengler reaction

Figure 4 illustrates preparation of substrates for the modified Pictet-Spengler reactions via standard peptide synthesis procedures

Figure 5 illustrates formation of larger ring systems by inserting N-protected AA(s) between MABB and Trp

Figure 6 illustrates possible scaffolds for solid phase modified Pictet-Spengler reactions including different suitable nucleophilic chemical entities and nucleophilic amino acids.

Figure 7 illustrates an alcohol oxidation approach towards aldehydes capable of undergoing intamolecular amide N condensation/modified Pictet-Spengler reactions

Figure 8 illustrates a solid-phase oxidation approach using commercially available M(OH)BBs

Figure 9 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modified Pictet-Spengler reation substrates 1

Figure 10 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modified Pictet-Spengler reation substrates 2

Figure 11 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modified Pictet-Spengler reation substrates 3

Figure 12 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modified Pictet-Spengler reation products 1

Figure 13 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modified Pictet-Spengler reation products 2

Figure 14 illustrates representative analytical HPLCs for modfied Pictet-Spengler reation products 3

**Definitions**

Masked aldehyde: A masked aldehyde according to the present invention is a chemical entity, wherein said chemical entity may be transformed to an aldehyde. In particular, the masked aldehyde may comprise an aldehyde protecting group, which may be removed chemically, thereby generating a free aldehyde. Alternatively the masked aldehyde may comprise a group that can be transformed into an aldehyde, for example an alcohol, an ester, an alkene, a diol, or a thiolester. A masked aldehyde may furthermore comprise a chemical group that can be transformed into an aldehyde, wherein said chemical group furthermore is protected by a protecting group.

**Detailed description of the invention**

Precursor molecule

In one aspect the present invention relates to a precursor molecule of the formula

[MABB-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

MABB is a masked aldehyde building block of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-CO-], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde,

$L_1$ is an aryl ring or alkyl chain comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

CO is a carbonyl group,

AA is an amino acid of the formula $-NHCR^1R^2CO-$ and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

$[-NH-L_2-Nu-]$, wherein

-NH is an amino group forming an amide,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system,

wherein NuBB is linked to $(AA)_n$ or if n=0 to MABB via an amide bond and with the proviso, that when x=0, then n is at least 1,

and wherein the masked aldehyde may be transformed into a free aldehyde, and the free aldehyde group is capable of interacting with an intramolecular amide group, thereby forming an N-acyl-iminium ion,

and wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile for intramolecular reaction with said nucleophilic chemical entity,

The masked aldehyde builiding block, the amino acids and the Nucleophile building block may be any of the masked aldehyde builiding block, the amino acids and the Nucleophile building block described herein below, respectively.

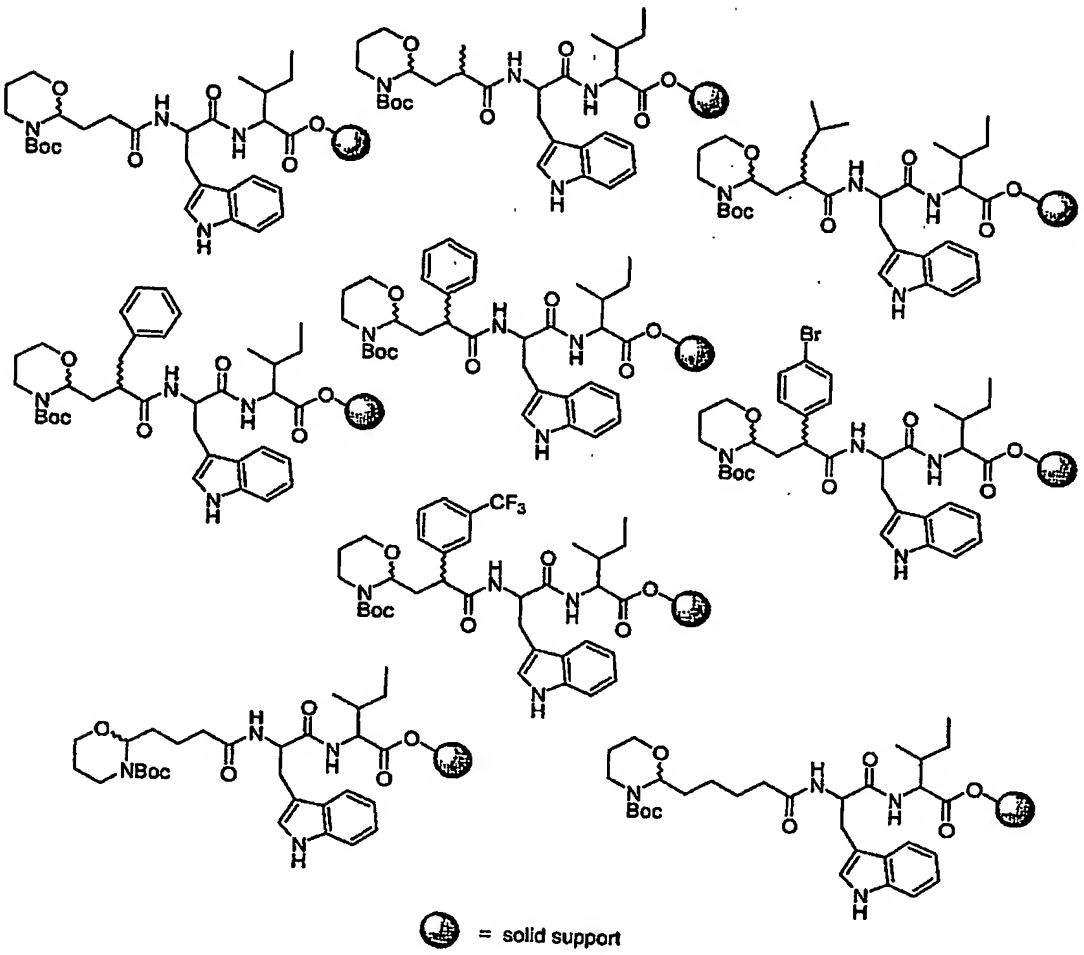
In one preferred embodiment of the present invention the precursor molecule is covalently attached to a solid support. The solid support may be any of the solid supports mentioned herein below.

In particular, different precursor molecules according to the present invention may be derived from the same scaffold, by differentially substituting said scaffold on one or more positions.

In one embodiment of the present invention the precursor molecule may be selected from the group consisting of the structures illustrated herein below and derivatives thereof, wherein each of the structures may be substituted independently on every position with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

Examples of precursor molecules according to the invention include any of the structures illustrated below, as well as any of said structures substituted with one or more of the above-mentioned groups and derivatives thereof. In addition, the precursor molecules may be any of said structures and derivatives thereof, wherein

said precursor molecules are not attached to a solid support. Further examples of precursor molecules according to the invention are given in example 2.




Nucleophile building block

The nucleophile building block according to the present invention comprises a nucleophilic chemical entity.

The nucleophilic chemical entity should be capable of participating in a Pictet-Spengler reaction, or another cyclization process involving electronrich double or triple bonds forming a new covalent bond, thereby forming a heterocyclic organic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom. Said

covalent bond is preferably selected from the group consisting of C-C, C-N, C-S, and C-O, more preferably it is a C-C bond. When the nucleophilic chemical entity comprises a $\pi$ system, then the covalent bond will in general be a C-C bond.

The nucleophile chemical entity may comprise one or more electron donating groups, and/or one or more nucleophilic heteroatoms. Preferably, the electron donating groups and/or the nucleophilic heteroatoms is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes, alkynes and combinations thereof.
More preferably, the nucleophile chemical entity comprises or consists of an electron donating group selected from the group consisting of mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes and alkynes, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino.

More preferably, the nucleophilic chemical entity is selected from the group consisting of chemical entities comprising a functional group selected from the group consisting of -NHR, -$NH_2$, Alkyl-SH, Aryl-SH, Alkyl-OH, Aryl-OH, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes and alkynes

Said aromatic or heteroaromatic ring may be selected from the group consisting of arenes, pyrroles, indoles, thiophenes, and furanes.

The aromatic ring or the alkenes may be substituted independently on every position, for example the aromatic ring or the alkenes may be substituted by one or more selected from the group consisting of substituents comprising or consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy.

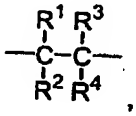
Thus, the nucleophilic chemical entity may be a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system comprising an N, O or S atom or a chemical entity which is substituted withan N, O or S atom.

Non limiting examples of suitable nucleohilic chemical entities are given in figure 6.

In one embodiment of the invention, the nuclephilic chemical entity is an indole or an indole substituted with one or more of the above-mentioned groups or a derivative thereof. It is thus preferred in this embodiment that the nucleophile building block comprises or even consists of a tryptophan, a substituted tryptophan or a derivative thereof. Non-limiting examples of suitable indoles and indole derivatives are given in figure 6.

The nucleophile building block comprises a linker designated $L_2$, linking the secondary amino/amido group and the nucleophilic chemical entity. $L_2$ may be any suitable linker capable of linking the secondary amino group and the nucleophilic chemical entity, for example $L_2$ may be an alkyl, preferably a linear alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4, preferably in the range of 1 to 3 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted.

In one embodiment of the invention $L_2$ has the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles. The alkyl may be selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

In a preferred embodiment, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are –H, and $R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of amides and peptides, optionally substituted with one or more groups. Said peptide may consist of any amino acids, however in a preferred embodiment the peptides consist of naturally occuring amino acids.

It is preferred that the NuBB is covalently linked to a solid support, The solid support may be any of the solid supports described herein below. Preferably, the NuBB is linked to the solid support via a linker designated $L_3$, which is covalently linked to $L_2$. $L_3$ preferably comprises a bulky group. In particular, when it is desirable to control the stereochemistry of the resulting heteroaromatic organic compound, it is preferred that $L_3$ comnprises a bulky group. Preferably, said bulky group is selected from the group consisting of carbonyl, esters and amids. More preferably, the bulky group is carbonyl. In a preferred embodiment $L_3$ is a peptide or peptidomimetic, more preferably a peptide. Hence, In one embodiment of the invention $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are –H, and $R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of amides and peptides, wherein said amide or peptide is covalently linked to a solid support via a cabonyl group.

Masked aldehyde building block

The masked aldehyde building block according to the present invention comprises a masked aldehyde. By masked aldehyde is meant a chemical entity, which may be

transformed into an aldehyde by one or more chemical reactions, preferably the masked aldehyde may be transformed into an aldehyde by at the most 5, more preferably at the most 4, even more preferably at the most 3, yet more preferably at the most 2 chemical reactions, and most preferably a single chemical reaction.

It is preferred that the masked aldehyde is a molecular entity of the formula:

wherein the central atom is C; and

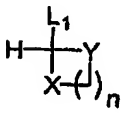
X and Y independently may be selected from the group consisting of:

OH, OAlkyl, OAryl, OHeteroaryl, SAlkyl, SAryl, SHeteroaryl, N(PG)Alkyl, N(PG)Aryl, N(PG)Heteroaryl,

wherein PG is a carbamate, preferably a methyl or ethyl carbamate, substituted methyl carbamate (preferably Fmoc, substituted fluorenylmethyl carbamates, Bimoc) or ethyl carbamate (preferably Troc, Teoc, Boc, Adoc, Alloc), benzylcarbamate (Cbz), substituted benzylcarbamate, substituted aryl- and heteroaryl carbamate or PG is a formyl, acetyl, substituted acetyl, benzyl, allyl or trialkylsilyl.

$L_1$ is a linker linking the masked aldehyde with a carbonyl group, the structure of $L_1$ is defined herein above.

Included are cyclic structures with X and Y as part of the same ring:



Where n can be any integer, for example n may be 0, such as 1, for example 2, such as 3, for example 4, such as 5, for example larger than 5.

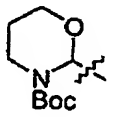
In one preferred embodiment of the invention the masked aldehyde is an aldehyde protected by an aldehyde protecting group.

An aldehyde protecting group is a chemical entity that may be removed from a compound in one chemical reaction, thereby liberating a free aldehyde. For example the aldehyde protecting group may be removed by acid treatment, alkaline treatment, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis.

In one embodiment of the invention the aldehyde protecting group may be removed by treatment with acid. The acid may be selected from the group consisting of Brønsted acids and Lewis acids. The Brøndsted acid may for example be selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid.

The aldehyde protecting group may for example be selected from the group consisting of N-Boc N,O-acetals, di-Boc N,N-acetals, N-Boc N,S-acetals, di-O-acetals, di-S-acetals, S,O-acetals, F-moc and triakylsilyl. Preferrede aldehydeprotecting groups include for example N-Boc.

Thus, in one preferred embodiment of the invention the masked aldehyde has the structure




Hence, in one embodiment of the invention the free aldehyde is generated by acid-mediated cleavage of acetals, for example as described by Vojkovský, T.; Weichsel, A.; Pátek, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 1362-3163 or by acid-mediated cleavaged of hemiacetals for example as described by Geyer, A.; Moser, F. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, 1113-1120) or by Rh-catalysed cyclohydrocarbonylation of olefins as for example described by Mizutani, N.; Chiou, W.-H.; Ojima. I. *Org. Lett.* **2002**, *4*, 4575-4578.

In another embodiment of the invention the masked aldehyde has the formula –CO-X, wherein X is not –H. Preferably, X is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkylthio and alkylamino. Hence, the masked aldehyde may be selected from the group consisting of esters, thiolesters, amides and Weinreb-amides.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the masked aldehyde is an alcohol, wherein said alcohol may be either a free alcohol or an alcohol protected by an alcohol protecting group. Said alcohol may be transformed into an aldehyde by an oxidation reaction.

An alcohol protecting group is a chemical entity that may be removed in one chemical reaction, thereby forming a free alcohol. Preferably, said alcohol may be deprotected by treatment with acid, base, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis. For example the alcohol protecting group may be removed by treatment with acid. The acid may be selected from the group consisting of Brøndsted acids and Lewis acids. The Brøndsted acid may for example be selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid.

The alcohol protecting group may for example be selected from the group consisting of common silyl protecting groups, alkyl protecting groups, acyl protecting groups and chlororacetyl protecting groups.. The silyl protecting group may for example be selected from the group consisting of TBDMS, TBDPS, TIPS, TES and TMS, The alkyl protecting group or ether may for example selected from the group consisting of Bzl, tBu, Trt, MOM, MEM, BOM, Bn and mono- or polysubstituted benzylethers. The acyl protecting group may for example be selected from the group consisting of Acetyl, substituted acetyl and benzoyl.

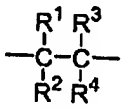
The masked aldehyde building block further comprises a linker designated $L_1$, wherein said linker links the masked aldehyde and the carbonyl group of said masked aldehyde building block.

The linker may be any chemical entity, such as an aryl or alkyl, capable of linking the masked aldehyde and the carbonyl group, with the proviso that the atom most proximal to the carbonyl is a Carbon.

Preferably, $L_1$ is an aryl ring or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom. The alkyl may be selected from the group consisting of linear alkyls, branched alkyls and cyclic alkyls.

In one preferred embodiment of the invention, $L_1$ is a linear alkyl chain, wherein said linear alkyl chain comprises in the range of 1 to 8, more preferably in the range of 1 to 6, even more preferably in the range of 1 to 4 atoms, i.e. x is preferably an integer in the range of 1 to 8, more preferably in the range of 1 to 6, even more preferably in the range of 1 to 4. Said linear alkyl may be substituted independently on every position with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

In one embodiment of the invention x is 2. Hence, $L_1$ may have the structure



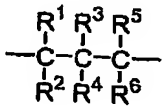
,

wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group of functionalities consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused het-

erocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

Preferably, R1 and R2 independently are selected from the group consisting of –H, alkyl phenyl, aryl phenyl substituted with halogen or halomethyl, alkoxy acyl amino, amino and alkyls. The alkyl is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

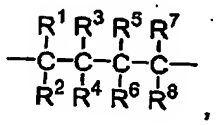
In another embodiment of the present invention x is 3. Hence, $L_1$ may have the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$ and $R^6$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles. The alkyl is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

Preferably, R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and R6 independently are selected from the group consisting of –H, -OH and amino.

In yet another embodiment of the invention x=4. Accordingly, $L_1$ may have the structure

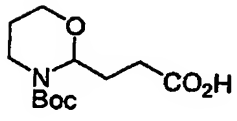


wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^8$ independently may be selected from the group of functionalities consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

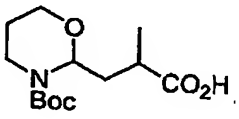
The acidic group of the MABB may be any suitable acidic group capable of forming an amide bond. Preferably, the acidic group is selected from the group consisting of -CO (carbonyl), -CS, $-SO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_2H$ and $-PO_3H$. Most preferably, the acidic group is a carbonyl group.

The amide group within the precursor molecule is thus preferably an amide group selected from the group consisting of carbonyl amide, thiocarbonyl amide, phosphinic amide, phosphonic amide, sulfonic acid amide and sulfinic acid amide.

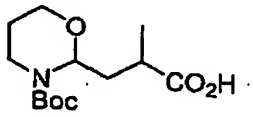
Examples of MABB useful for the present invention for example includes the structures MABB 1 to 9, wherein each of said structure further may be subsituted with one or more of the above mentioned functionalities as well as derivatives thereof.



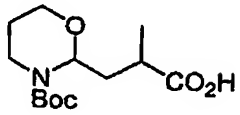

***MABB 1***



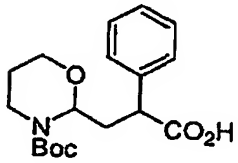

***MABB 2***



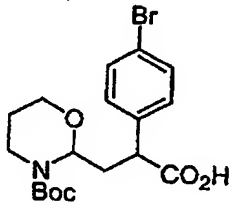

***MABB 3***



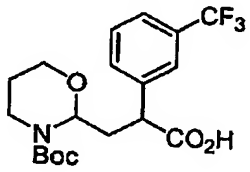

***MABB 4***



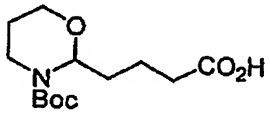

***MABB 5***



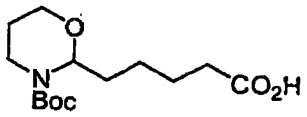

***MABB 6***




***MABB 7***




***MABB 8***




***MABB 9***

Amino acid

The precursor molecules or the scaffolds according to the present invention may comprise one or more amino acids linked the MABB and the NuBB, i.e. the MABB and the NuBB may be linked by $(AA)_n$. However, it is also comprised within the present invention that the MABB is directly linked to the NuBB via an amide bond, i.e. n=0.

The amino acid may be any amino acid of the generel formula $NHCR^1R^2CO$-, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ may be any suitable side chain. n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5, such as 1, for example 2, such as 3, for example 4.

In one embodiment of the invention AA is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring amino acids, unnatural α-amino acids, and unnatural β-amino acids. Naturally occurring amino acids are the amino acids naturally found in proteins of living organisms.

Non-limiting examples of suitable amino acids are given in figure 6.

It is comprised within the present invention that one or more amino acids are protected by an amino acid protecting group, i.e. the amine of the amino acid is protected by a protecting group. The protecting group may be any substituent, which is not –H. Preferably, said substituent is compatible with the reaction conditions required for performing the methods of preparing a heterocyclic organic compound according to the invention, for example the protecting group may be an alkyl or a substituted alkyl.

In particular, it may be desirable to protect one or more amide nitrogens when the precursor comprises more than one amide group, in order to direct the reaction between the aldehyde and the amide group to a specific amide group.

Heterocyclic organic compound

The present invention relates to heterocyclic organic compounds, to precursors useful for preparing such compounds and to methods of preparing said compounds.

Heterocyclic organic compounds according to the invention comprises at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom.

Hence, preferably ring A is a lactam. It is preferred that ring A is a in the range of 4 to 11 membered heterocycle, preferably in the range of 5 to 8 membered heterocy-

cle. For example ring A may be a 5 membered, such as a 6 membered, for example a 7 membered, such as a 8 membered ring.

Ring B is preferably a 6 membered heterocycle or a 5 membered heterocycle.

The heterocyclic organic compound may comprise more than 2 fused rings, for example 3, such as 4, for example 5, such as 6, for example 7, such as 8, for example 9, such as 10, for example more than 10 fused rings. It is preferred that at least some of said rings are derived from the nucleophile chemical entity. By way of example, if the nucleophile chemical entity comprises 1 ring, then preferably 1 ring of the heterocyclic organic compound is derived from said nucleophilic chemical entity or if the nucleophile chemical entity comprises 2 fused rings, then preferably 2 fused rings of the heterocyclic organic compound is derived from said nucleophilic chemical entity

The fused rings of the heterocyclic organic compound may be indepently substituted on every position, for example the fused rings may be substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy,

Hence, in one embodiment of the invention the heterocyclic organic compound comprises 3 fused rings. In this embodiment of the invention it is preferred that one ring is derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

In another embodiment of the invention the heterocyclic organic compound comprises 4 fused rings. In this embodiment of the invention it is preferred that 2 rings are derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

The heterocyclic organic compound may in one preferred embodiment of the invention be covalently linked to any of the solid supports mentioned herein below.

Dependent on the nature of the precursor molecule, the heterocyclic organic compound may comprise fused rings of different size.

For example, if the masked aldehyde is situated relatively distant from the first available amide group, said precursor molecule may be useful for preparation of a heterocyclic organic compound, comprising a relatively large ring A. By way of example, figure 5 illustrates examples of precursor molecules that may give rise to an 8 membered or an 11 membered ring A.

Non-limiting, illustrative examples of heterocyclic organic compounds that may be prepared according to the methods of the present invention are given in example 3.

In one embodiment of the invention, the heterocyclic compound, be any of the compounds prepared by the methods described herein below. Preferably, the heterocyclic compound then comprises at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, wherein said compound comprises or consists of

a) a 7,5, or a 7,6-bicyclic scaffold,
or,
b) a 5,5,5-, a 5,6,5-, a 5,5,8-, or a 5,6,8-tricyclic scaffold,
or,
c) a 6,5,5-, a 6,6,5-, a 6,5,8-, or a 6,6,8-tricyclic scaffold,
or,
d) a 6,5,5,5-, a 6,5,6,5-, a 6,5,5,8-, a 6,5,6,8-tetracyclic scaffold,
or,
e) extensions of any of the scaffolds mentioned in a) to d) comprising at least one further ring fused to said scaffold,

wherein each of said scaffolds may be independently substituted on every position.

By the term X,Y-bicyclic scaffold is meant a ring system of 2 fused rings, wherein one ring is a X-membered ring and the other ring is a Y-membered ring. Scaffolds comprising more rings are named analogously.

In this embodiment of the invention it is particularly preferred that the compound is covalently attached to a solid support.

The scaffolds may be independently substituted on every position, for example they may be substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

Solid support

The solid support may be any suitable solid support, for example, a polymer bead, thread, pin, sheet, membrane, silicon wafer, a multivessel plate, a microtiter plate, or a grafted polymer unit. Preferably however, the solid support is a resin bead.

The resin bead should preferably be compatible with the chemistry required for preparing the precursor molecules according to the invention and compatible with the chemistry required for preparing the heterocyclic organic compounds according to the methods described by the invention.

Preferred solid supports according to the present invention are resin beads, useful for on-bead synthesis of precursor molecules and/or heterocyclic organic compounds according to the invention. Hence, preferred resins according to the present invention are resins comprising polyethylene glycol. PEGA (PolyEthyleneGlycol Acrylamide copolymer; Meldal M., 1992, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 33: 3077-80), POEPOP (PolyOxyEthylene-PolyOxyPropylene; Renil et al., 1996, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 37: 6185-88) and SPOCC (Super Permeable Organic Combinatorial Chemistry; Rademann et al, 1999, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 121: 5459-66) resins are made primarily of

polyethylene glycol and swell well in organic as well as aqueous solvents. Furthermore, these resins are available in different pore sizes.

In one preferred embodiment of the invention the resin beads are selected from the group consisting of Jandagel® and resin beads comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG). For example, resin beads comprising polyehtylene glycol may be selected from the group consisting of PolyEthyleneGlycol Acrylamide copolymer (PEGA), or PolyOxyEthylene-PolyOxyPropylene (POEPOP), Super Permeable Organic Combinatorial Chemistry (SPOCC), POEPS and Tentagel®.

The precursor molecules and/or heterocyclic organic molecules according to the invention may be directly attached to a solid support or indirectly attached via a variety of linkers, preferably by covalent bonds (For reviews describing linkers for solid phase synthesis, see: Backes et al., 1997, *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.*, 1: 86-93; Gordon et al., 1999, *J. Chem. Technol. Biotechnol.*, 74: 835-851). The linkers are preferably cleavable, for example the linkers may be acid labile (for example, the Rink amide as described in Rink, 1987, *Tetrahedrom Lett.*, 28: 387 and traceless silyl linkers as described in Plunkett et al., 1995, *J. Org. Chem.*, 60: 6006-7), base labile (for example, HMBA as described in Atherton et al. 1981, *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans,* 1: 538), or photolabile (for example, 2-nitrobenzyl type as described in Homles et al., 1995, *J. Org. Chem.*, 60: 2318-2319). The linkers may be more specific and restrictive of the type of chemistry performed, such as silyl linkers (for example, those cleaved with fluoride as described in Boehm et al., 1996, *J. Org. Chem.*, 62: 6498-99), allyl linkers (for example, Kunz et al., 1988, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 27: 711-713), and the safety catch sulfonamide linker (for example, as described in Kenner et al., 1971, *Chem. Commun.*, 12: 636-7).

Method of preparing a precursor molecule

In one aspect the present invention relates to methods of preparing a precursor molecule as described herein above.

The method comprises the steps of

Providing any of masked aldehyde building block (MABB) described herein above, wherein the acidic group has been derivatised to a corresponding free acidic group

ii) Providing a molecule of the structure [-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

AA may be any of the amino acids described herein above and NuBB may be any of the nucleophile building blocks described herein above,

wherein $(AA)_n$ is linked to NuBB via an amide bond

iv) Reacting said MABB with said molecule, thereby forming an amide bond between said MABB and said molecule

iv) Thereby obtaining a precursor molecule.

The reaction may be performed by any suitable reaction capable of establishing an amide bond between a primary amino group and an acidic group, depending on the nature of the acidic group. The acidic group (also designated $AG_2$) may be any acidic group capable of reacting with an amino group to form an amide. Preferably, $AG_2$ is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid halogenid, sulfonyl halogenid and phosphonyl halogenid. Hence, preferably the amide is selected from the group consisting of carbonyl amide, thiocarbonyl amide, phosphinic amide, phosphonic amide, sulfonic acid amide and sulfinic acid amide.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the acidic group $AG_2$ is a carboxylic acid. In said embodiment it is preferred, that the reaction may be performed by incubation in the presence of an activator of carboxylic acids. Said activator may for example be any of the activators of carboxylic acids mentioned herein below, for example said reaction may be performed by incubation in the presence of TBTU.

The MABB (masked aldehyde building block) may be prepared by any method suitable for preparing a compound comprising a masked aldehyde and a free carboxylic acid. Non-limiting examples of how MABB may be prepared are given in example 1.

The molecule of the structure [-$(AA)_n$-NuBB] may also be prepared by any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the method comprises the steps of

i) Providing a reactive amino group

ii) Providing a first amino acid, wherein the amino group of said first amino acid is protected by an amino group protecting entity

iii) Forming an amide bond between said reactive amine group and the carboxyl group of said amino acid, by incubating the reactive amine and the amino acid in the presence of an activator of carboxylic acids,

iv) Thereby obtaining a first AA containing molecule.

Optionally, the method may further comprise the steps of

v) Providing a second amino acid, wherein the amino group of said second amino acid is protected by an amino group protecting entity

vi) Deprotecting said first AA containing molecule by removing the amino group protecting entity

vii) Forming an amide bond between the deprotected amino group of the first AA containing molecule and the carboxyl group of the second amino acid, by incubating the first AA containing molecule and the amino acid in the presence of an activator of carboxylic acids,

viii) Thereby obtaining a second AA containing molecule.

Optionally, the steps v) to viii) may be repeated z times, wherein a third, a $4^{th}$, a $5^{th}$ and so forth amino acid is provided, thereby obtaining a third, a $4^{th}$, a $5^{th}$ and so forth AA containing molecule. z is an integer, preferably an integer in the range of 0 to 5.

The first amino acid and any of the further amino acids provided, may for example be any of the amino acids mentioned herein above. At least one of the amino acids provided should comprise a nucleophilic chemical entity, for example any of the nucleophilic chemical entities mentioned herein above. It is preferred that the first amino acid comprises a nucleophilic chemical entity.

Thus for example if the first amino acid comprises a nucleophilic chemical entity, for example any of the nucleophilic chemical entities mentioned herein above, then the method may only comprise steps i) to iv) and first AA containing molecule may be a molecule of the structure [-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein n=0. It is also possible that the method comprises steps i) to viii) and that the second AA containing molecule is a molecule of the structure [-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein n=1.

Said reactive amino group provided may be any reactive amino group, for example said reactive amino group may be part of an amino acid, it may be coupled to a solid support, such as any of the solid supports mentioned herein above, or it may for example be part of a peptide, a polypeptide or an alkyl amine. The reactive amine may thus for example be coupled directly to a solid support or it may be coupled to said solid support via a linker, such as a cleavable linker. Examples of suitable linkers are given herein above.

The activator of carboxylic acid may be any compound capable of activating a carboxylic acid in a manner so that it is capable of reacting with an amino group thereby forming an amide bond. I.e. the activator of carboxylic acids may be any coupling reagent allowing peptide-bond formation. For example the activator of carboxylic acids may be selected from the group consisting of BOP, PyBOP, HBTU, TBTU, TNTU, TSTU, PyBrOP, HOBt, DCC, DCU, DIPCDI, TBMCDI, DMAP, PyBroP and WSC-HCl, more preferably the activator of carboxylic acids may be selected from the group consisting of BOP, PyBOP, HBTU, TBTU, TNTU, TSTU, PyBrOP, HOBt. (also useful are DCC, DCU, DIPCDI,

The amino group protecting entity may be any molecular entity capable of protecting an amino acid from reaction with a carboxylic acid, for example any of the commonly used protecting groups in peptide synthesis. For example, the amino group protecting entity may be selected from the group consisting of Fmoc, Boc, Aloc, Adpoc, Pmc, Ac, Bz, Bzl, Mob, Dod, Dmob, Tmob and combinations thereof. Depending on the nature of the amino group protecting entity, said amino group protecting entity may be removed by for example acidic treatment, alkaline treatment, acidic or alkaline treatment at a defined pH, flourid treatment or treatment with a metal or metalk ion.

One illustrative, but non-limiting example of a method to prepare a precursor molecule according to the invention is shown in figure 4.

Method of preparing a heterocyclic organic compound

The present invention also relates to methods of preparing a heterocyclic organic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

c) Providing any of the precursor molecules described herein above
d) Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde
e) Reacting said free aldehyde with an amide group within said precursor molecule, thereby obtaining a cyclic N-acyl-iminium ion, wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile
f) Performing an intramolecular nucleophilic reaction involving the N-acyl-iminium ion and the nucleophilic chemical entity forming a new covalent bond, thereby obtaining said cyclic organic compound.

The intramolecular nucleophilic reaction may be any cyclization process involving an electronrich double or triple bond, i.e. a π-system leading to the formation of a new covalent bond. In a preferred embodiment the intramolecular nucleophilic reaction is a Pictet Spengler reaction. Examples of Pictet-Spengler reactions are for example reviewed in Cox, E.D.; Cook, J.M. *Chem. Rev.* **1995**, *95*, 1797-1842. Said new covalent bond is preferably selected from the group consisting of C-C, C-N, C-S and C-O, more preferably said new bond is a C-C bond.

The amide group may for example be selected from the group consisting of carbonyl amide, thiocarbonyl amide, phosphinic amide, phosphonic amide, sulfonic acid amide and sulfinic acid amide. Preferably the amide is a carbonyl amide.

The specific conditions for the nucleophilic reaction should be selected according to the specific nucleophile chemical entity used. In general, the reaction can take place under aqueous conditions or non-aqueous conditions. It is preferable that the reaction, at least can take place under aqueous conditions. This is for example the case

when the nucleophile chemical entity comprises a π-system, comprising an N, O or S atom or a chemical entity which is substituted with an N, O or S atom. This is also the case when the nucleophile chemical entity may comprise one or more electron donating groups, and/or one or more nucleophilic heteroatoms, wherein the electron donating groups and/or the nucleophilic heteroatoms is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes, alkynes and combinations thereof.

When some nucleophile chemical entities are used the reaction cannot be performed under aqueous conditions. However, the reaction can still be performed under non-aqueous conditions. Such nucleophile chemical entities are less preferable. This is for example the case for an unsubstituted phenyl group.

Because the intramolecular nucleophilic reaction in general is very efficient it may normally be performed at room temperature, i.e. at a temperature in the range of 10°C to around 40°C, preferably in the range of 15°C to 30°C. It is preferred that the nucleophile chemical entity is selected so that the reaction may be performed at room temperature.

Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde should be performed according the nature of the masked aldehyde (see herein above). For examle transforming the masked aldehyde may comprise acid treatment, alkaline treatment, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis preferably treatment with acid. The acid may be selected from the group consisting of Brøndsted acids and Lewis acids. The Brøndsted acid may for example be selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid. In addition the Brøndsted acid may be any of the acids mentioned in figure 2.

The acid treatment may involve incubation in the presence of in the range of 1 to 10%, such as in the range of 5 to 15%, for example in the range of 10% to 20%, such as in the range of 15 to 25%, for example in the range of 20% to 30%, such as in the range of 25 to 35%, for example in the range of 30% to 40%, such as in the range of 35 to 45%, for example in the range of 40% to 50%, such as in the range of

45 to 55%, for example in the range of 50% to 60%, such as in the range of 55 to 65%, for example in the range of 60 to 70% acid, for example any of the above mentioned acids. Preferably acid treatment involves incubation in the presence of in the range of 10% to 50% acid, dependent on the nature of the acid. For example acid treatment may be as described in figure 2.

The acid treatment may be done for any suitable amount of time, for example for in the range of 5 min to 48 hours, preferably for in the range of 5 min to 24 h, such as for in the range of 10 min to 20 hours depending of the nature of the acid. Examples of suitable incubation times for various acids are given in figure 2.

Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde may also comprise oxidation of an alcohol group to obtain a free aldehyde. Oxidation may be performed according to any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art, for example by Dess-Martin periodinane oxidation, TPAP-oxidation, PDC- or PCC-oxidation or oxidation with activated DMSO, such as the Swern oxidation,

Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde may also comprise removing an alcohol protecting group, thereby obtaining a free alcohol and oxidation of said alcohol to obtain a free aldehyde. Dependent on the nature of said alcohol protecting group, it may be removed by treatment with acid, base, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis, and subsequently transformed into an aldehyde by oxidation.

In one embodiment of the invention the precursor molecule is attached to a solid support and thus the heterocyclic organic compound will preferably also be attached to said solid support.

An illustrative, but non-limiting example of preparation of a heterocyclic organic compound according to the invention, wherein the masked aldehyde is masked by an aldehyde protecting group is shown in figure 1. Another illustrative, but non-limiting example of preparation of a heterocyclic organic compound according to the invention, wherein the masked aldehyde is an alcohol protected by an alcohold protecting group is shown in figure 7.

Library

It is also an aspect of the present invention to provide methods of preparing a library of heterocyclic organic compounds, wherein each comprises at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A is substituted with a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

i) Providing at least 2 different precursor molecules, which may be any of the precursor molecules described herein above,

ii) performing any of the methods of preparing a heterocyclic compound for each of said precursor molecules

iii) thereby obtaining a library comprising at least 2 different cyclic organic compounds.

It is also an aspect of the invention to provide libraries prepared by said methods.

Preferably, said method comprises providing at least 10, such as at least 20, for example at least 30, such as at least 40, for example at least 50, such as at least 100, for example at least 500, such as at least 1000 different precursor molecules and hence the libraries preferably comprises at least 10, such as at least 20, for example at least 30, such as at least 40, for example at least 50, such as at least 100, for example at least 500, such as at least 1000 different heterocyclic organic compounds.

In one embodiment of the invention, all precursor molecules provided comprise identical scaffolds, which are differentially substituted, i.e. the core structure of the precursor molecules is identical. For example, all precursor molecules provided may comprise identical masked aldehydes

It is often desirable to keep the library compounds physically separated, for example by keeping the library compounds in different reaction vessels or by attaching the library compounds to different solid supports, such as to different resin beads.

For example, the library may be prepared using parallel synthesis. Alternativly, all precursor molecules provided may be attached to a solid support and hence the heterocyclic compounds may be covalently linked to a solid support. It is preferred that all heterocyclic compounds of the library are covalently linked to a solid support. The solid support may be any of the solid supports mentioned herein above, it is however preferred that the solid support is resin beads. More preferably, a single resin bead only is coupled to one kind of heterocyclic compound.

Each member of the library is a unique compound and is thus preferably physically separated in space from the other compounds in the library, preferably, by immobilizing the library on resin beads, wherein each bead at the most comprises one member of the library. Depending on the mode of library synthesis, each library member may contain, in addition, fragments of the library member. Since ease and speed are important, it is preferred that the methods of identifying heterocyclic organic compounds described herein below may take place on the same solid support used for synthesis of the library. It is even more preferred that identification of the heterocyclic organic compounds can take place on the same support, such as on a single resin bead. Thus, preferred solid supports useful in the invention satisfy the criteria of not only being suitable for organic synthesis, but are also suitable for screening procedures and identification procedures.

The library of the present invention is preferably a library of heterocyclic compounds, wherein said compounds comprises at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A is substituted with a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, and wherein a sequence of one or more amino acids is covalently linked to said fused rings, wherein said library is prepared by the method described herein above. Preferably, at least some of said heterocyclic compounds are linked to a solid support, more preferably all heterocyclic compounds are linked to a solid support.

The heterocyclic compounds may comprise more than 2 fused rings, such as 3 fused rings, for example 4 fused rings, such as 5, for example 6, such as more than 6 fused rings. Preferably, the heterocyclic compounds comprises 3 or 4 fused rings. Each ring may individually be a 4 membered, such as a 5 membered, for example a

6 membered, such as a 7 membered, for example an 8 membered, such as a 9 membered, for example a 10 membered, such as a more than 10 membered ring. Preferablyt, each ring may individually be a 5, 6 , 7 or 8 membered ring, such as a 5 or 6 membered ring or a 7 or 8 membered ring.

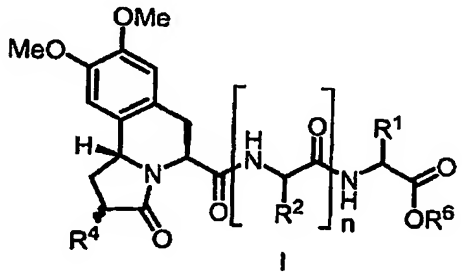
Thus, the library may in one embodiment comprise or even consist of heterocyclic organic compounds comprising fused rings selected from the group consisting of a 5,5,5-, a 5,6,5-, a 5,5,8-, a 5,6,8, a 6,5,5-, a 6,6,5-, a 6,5,8-, a 6,6,8-, a 6,5,5,5-, a 6,5,6,5-, a 6,5,5,8- and a 6,5,6,8 membered fused rings.

By the term X,Y, Z membered fused ring is meant a ring system of 3 fused rings, wherein one ring is a X-membered ring, the other ring is a Y-membered ring and the third ring is a Z membered ring. Larger ring systems are named analogously.

Each of the above mentioned fused rings may be independently substituted on each available position.

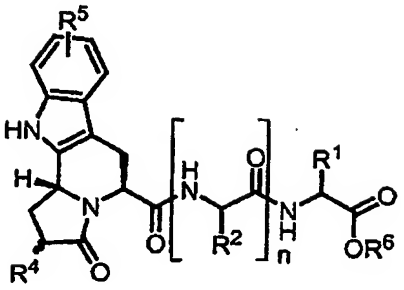
Said sequence of one or more amino acids may consists of 1, such as 2, for example 3, such as 4, for example 5, such as 6, for example more than 6 amino acids. Said amino acids may be any amino acids, such as naturallly occurring amino acids, not naturally occuring amino acids or a mixture of both.

In one embodiment of the invention the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula I:



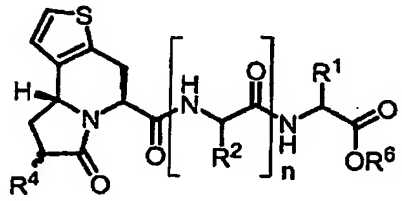

I

The library may also comprise or consist of compounds of the general formula II:



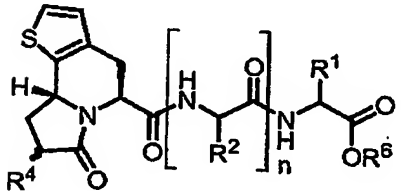
II

The library may also comprise or consist of compounds of the general formula III:



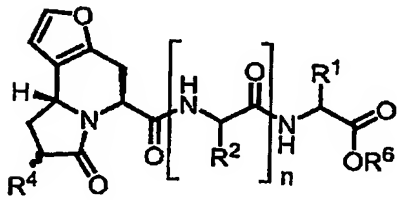
III

The library may also comprise or consist of compounds of the general formula IV:



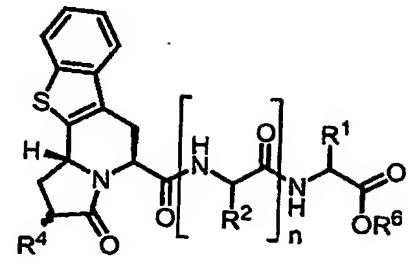
IV

The library may also comprise or consist of compounds of the general formula V:

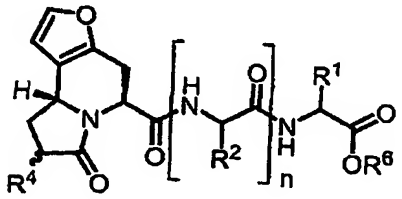


V

The library may also comprise or consist of compounds of the general formula VI:



VI



V

The library may also comprise or consist of any stereoisomeric compounds of the general formulas I - VI

It is also comprised within the present invention that the library may comprise or even consist of a mixture of compounds selected from compounds of the general formula I, formula II, formula III, formula IV, formula V and formula VI.

The R groups indicated in the formulas I to VI may indepedently be selected from the group consisting of amino acid side chains. Once incoporated into the heterocyclic compound the R group may not actually be an amino acid side chain anymore, however they are derived from amino acid side chains. Said amino acids may be *naturally occurring or not naturally occurring amino acids or a mixture of both.*

Examples of useful amino acids are given in table 1 herein below.

<u>Methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule</u>

It is also an aspect of the invention to provide methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule naturally expressed on the surface of a cell, said method comprising the steps of

i) Providing any of the libraries described herein above,
ii) Providing a composition comprising said cell surface molecule,
iii) Incubating said library with said composition
iv) Identifying heterocyclic compounds of said library capable of specifically associating with said cell surface molecule.

The cell surface molecule may in one embodiment be associated with a clinical condition. For example the cell surface molecule may be expressed differentially in diseased versus healthy cells, or the cell surface molecule may be expressed differentially in an individual suffering from said disease versus in an individual not suffering from said disease. For example said cell surface molecule may be overexpressed in diseased cells and/or sick individuals, The cell surface molecule may for example be associated with one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of obesity, cancer, memory disability, learning improvement, sleeping disturbances, systemic pain, convulsion, spetic chock, diseases related to the central nervous system (CNS) for example pain, depressions, maniodepressive state and Parkinsons disease.

The cell surface molecule may be any molecule expressed on the surface of at least one cell, however it is preferred that the cell surface molecule is a protein. For example the cell surface molecule may be a receptor, such as a G-protein coupled receptor.

The G-protein coupled receptor may for example be selected from the group consisting of the melanocortin receptor, morfine receptors such as δ, ω and κ, neuropeptide Y receptor, CB-1, CB-2, benzodiazepin receptor, dopamine receptor, serotonin receptor, epinyl receptor, gastrointestinal neurohormone receptor, oxytocin receptor, verssopressin receptor and CCK.

In order to screen the library for heterocyclic organic compounds capable of associating with a given cell surface molecule, in particular for screening libraries immobilised on a solid support, said cell surface molecule may be labelled with a detectable label. In particular, for G-protein coupled receptors, membrane fragments labelled with a detectable label may be used for the screening. The detectable label may be

selected from the group consisting of dyes, flourescent compounds, enzymes, heavy metals and radioactive compounds.

Once a library member capable of associating with a given cell surface molecule has been identified, it is preferred that the nature of said library member is identified. In particular, if the library is immobilised on resin beads, once a bead comprising a heterocyclic organic compound capable of interacting with said cell surface molecule, is will usually be desirable to identify said compound. The heterocyclic organic compounds may be identified may any suitable method known to the person skilled in the art, for example by mass spectrometry, such as MALDITOF MS, LCMS, ES MS, *or by ladder synthesis or by* NMR, *such as MAS NMR or single bead MAS* NMR or combinations thereof.

Uses of the heterocyclic organic compounds

The present invention also relates to uses of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to any of the methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule described herein above, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a clinical condition in an individual in need thereof. The clinical condition may for example be selected from the group consisting of cancer, memory disability, learning improvement, sleeping disturbances, systemic pain, convulusion, spetic chock, diseases related to the central nervous system (CNS) for example pain, depressions, maniodepressive state and Parkinsons disease.

The invention also relates to uses of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to any of the methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule described herein above for affinity chromatography.

The invention also relates to uses a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to any of the methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule described herein above for affinity labelling.

The invention also relates to methods of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of acting as a protease inhibitor, said method comprising the steps of

i) Providing any of the libraries of heterocyclic organic compounds described herein above,

ii) Providing a peptide substrate of a protease,

iii) Providing a protease capable of cleaving said substrate

iv) Incubating said library with said peptide substrate and said protease

v) Identifying heterocyclic compounds of said library capable of specifically inhibiting cleavage of said substrate.

Preferably, the peptide substrate is immobilised on a solid support. Even more preferably the heterocyclic organic compounds and the peptide substrate are immobilised on resin beads, wherein each resin bead comprises one kind of heterocyclic compound and a peptide substrate.

It is preferred that cleavage of said peptide substrate results in a detectable change, for example a detectable change in fluorescence.

The invention also relates to uses of a heterocyclic organic compound identified by the method as a protease inhibitor.

**Examples**

The following examples illustrates specific embodiments of the invention and should not be considered limiting for the invention.

Example 1

Preparation of MABB

**General Methods.** All solvents were of HPLC quality and stored over molecular sieves. Solid-phase organic chemistry was routinely carried out using plastic-syringe

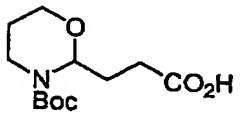
techniques. Flat bottom PE syringes were equipped with sintered teflon filters (50 µm pores), teflon tubing and valves, which allow suction to be applied to the syringes below. For all reactions on solid support, $PEGA_{800}$ resin (0.4 mmol/g, 150-300 µm, Polymer Laboratories) was used. Prior to use, the resin was washed with methanol (×6), and DMF (×6). Attachment of the 4-hydroxymethylbenzoic acid (HMBA) linker to the amino-functionalized resin: HMBA (3 equiv), *N*-ethyl morpholine (NEM, 4 equiv), and *N*-[(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-(dimethylamino)methylene]-*N*-methylmethanaminium tetrafluoroborate *N*-oxide (TBTU, 2.88 equiv) were premixed for 5 min in DMF. The resulting solution was added to the DMF preswollen resin and allowed to react for 2 h.

Coupling of the first amino acid to the HMBA derivatized resin was accomplished by treating the freshly lyophilized resin with a mixture of $N^{\alpha}$-Fmoc amino acid (3 equiv), MeIm (2.25 equiv), and MSNT (3 equiv) in DCM:THF (20:1). The couplqing was repeated once.

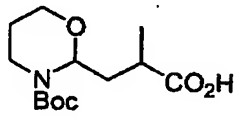
Peptide synthesis and attachment of masked aldehyde building blocks (MABBs) to the amino-functionalized resin were subsequently accomplished following standard amino acid/TBTU/NEM coupling-procedures, as described above for the attachment of the HMBA linker. The usual washing protocol followed each coupling and deprotection step. Completion of the reaction was monitored using the Kaiser test. Fmoc-deprotection was accomplished with 20% piperidine in DMF, first for 2 min, and then for 18 min.

Resin loading was determined by Fmoc cleavage and measurement of the optical density at 290 µm. Loadings were then calculated from a calibration curve. Analysis of all solid-phase reactions was performed after product cleavage from a resin sample: a small resin sample (ca. 50 beads) was treated with 0.1 M aqueous NaOH (20 µL) for 2 h. After neutralization with 0.1 M HCl (20 µL), and addition of MeCN (20 µL), a sample (10 µL) was analyzed via analytical RP-HPLC performed on a Zorbax column (C-18, 300 Å, 50 mm × 0.45 mm) column) with a linear gradient of 100% A (0.1% TFA in water) to 100% B (0.1% TFA in MeCN:water (9:1)) in a run-time of 25 min, 1 mL/min, with detection at 215 nm using a photodiode array detector. Material sufficient for $^1$H NMR analysis was obtained by cleaving a resin sample (ca. 75-100 mg) as described above. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 250 MHz instrument. High resolution mass spectrometry was performed using ES MSMS techniques.

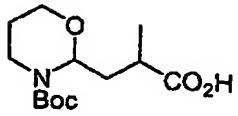
Masked aldehyde building blocks **MABB 1-4** were synthesized according to previously reported routes (Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 33-44; Nielsen, TE; Meldal, M., J.Org.Chem., 2004).



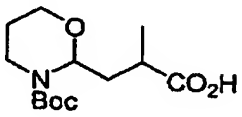
***MABB 1***



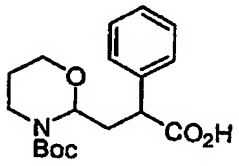
***MABB 2***



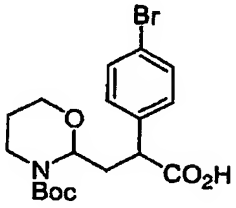
***MABB 3***



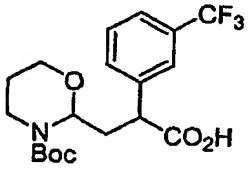
***MABB 4***



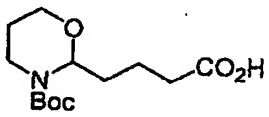
***MABB 5***



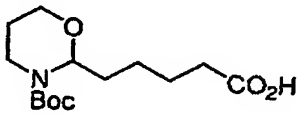
***MABB 6***



***MABB 7***

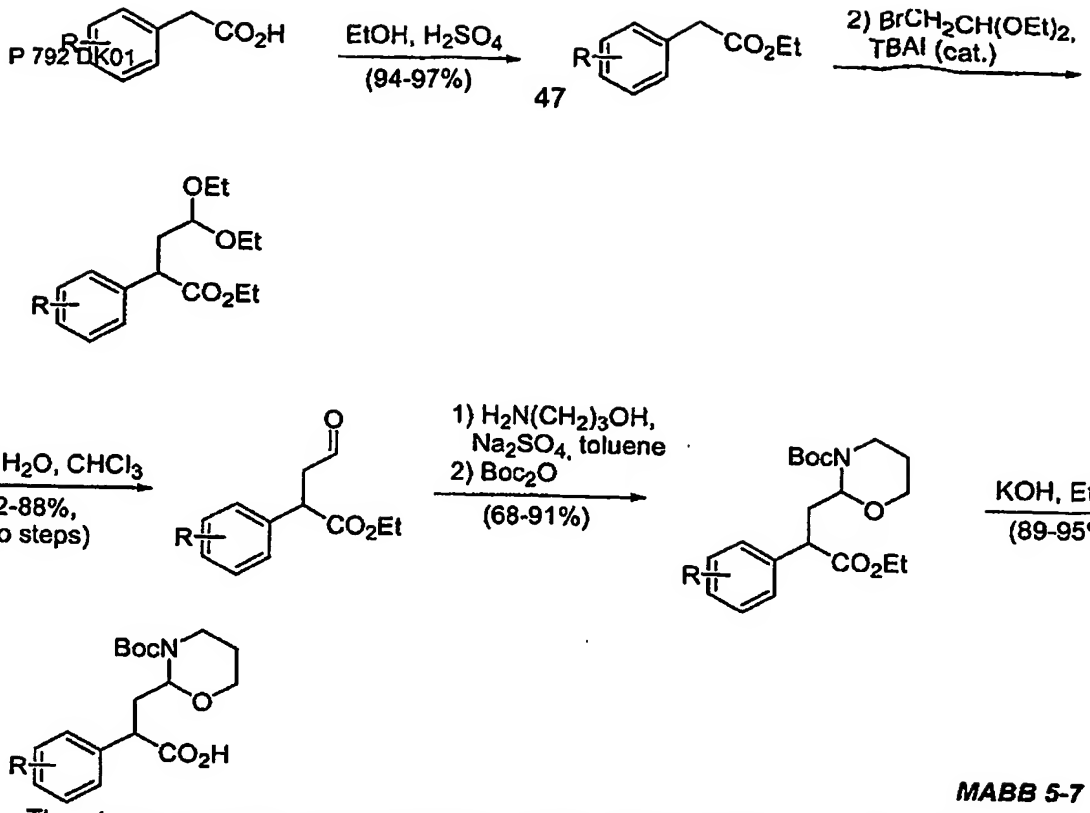


***MABB 8***



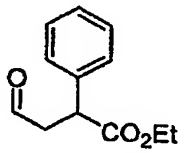
***MABB 9***

The synthesis of novel masked aldehyde building blocks **MABB 5-7** were carried out according to the previously reported procedure for masked aldehyde building blocks **MABB 1-4**,(Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 34-44) as illustrated by the reaction scheme below (with notation of the obatined yields in the individual synthetic transformations):




***MABB 5-7***

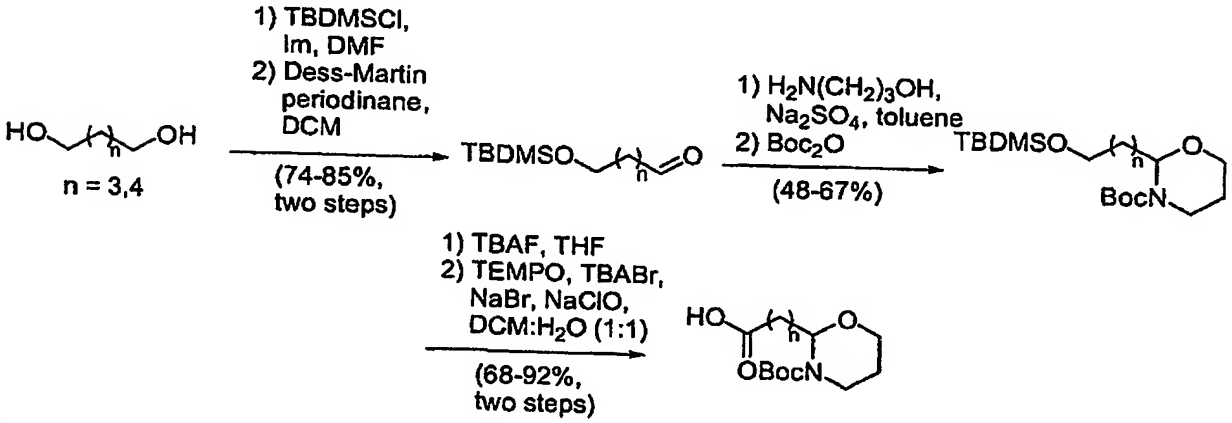
The steps comprising the conversion of intermediate arylacetic acid ethyl esters to the aldehydes of the *N*-Boc *N,O*-acetalization process deviate from the previously adapted for the synthesis of **MABB1-4**. This is illusttrated below for the synthesis of the aldehyde intermediate towards **MABB 5:**




**4-Oxo-2(*RS*)-phenyl-butyric acid ethyl ester.** A solution of phenylacetic acid ethyl ester (1.50 mmol, 246 mg, 1.0 equiv) in DMF (10 mL) was added dropwise to a Schlenk tube containing a suspension of KHMDS (1.65 mmol, 329 mg, 1.1 equiv) in DMF (10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 15 min, before the addition of solid TBAI (0.05 mmol, 18 mg, 0.03 equiv) in one portion, followed by dropwise addition of bromoacetaldehyde diethylacetal (1.65 mmol, 325 mg, 1.1 equiv). The resulting solution was allowed to reach 45 °C during 5 min, before quenching with water (20 mL) and addition of hexane (75 mL). The hexane layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with further portions of hexane (2 × 25 mL). The combined hexane layers were washed with water (3 × 25 mL), and brine (3 × 25 mL). The organic phase was dried over $Na_2SO_4$, filtered, and rotary evaporated to afford a yellow oil containing the alkylation product. The residue was suspended in 1 mL of water and cooled to 0 °C. The suspension was added 6 mL of $CHCl_3$:TFA

(1:1), and stirred for 2 hr at 0 °C, where after the reaction mixture was poured into a mixture of 1.0 M $K_2CO_3$ (15 mL) and DCM (25 mL). Solid $K_2CO_3$ was added until pH=7.5. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with a further amount of DCM (15 mL). The combined organics were washed with water (30 mL), and brine (30 mL), then dried over $Na_2SO_4$, filtered, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (petroleum ether:EtOAc; 4:1) on silica-gel to give the title compound as a colorless oil (273 mg, 88%).

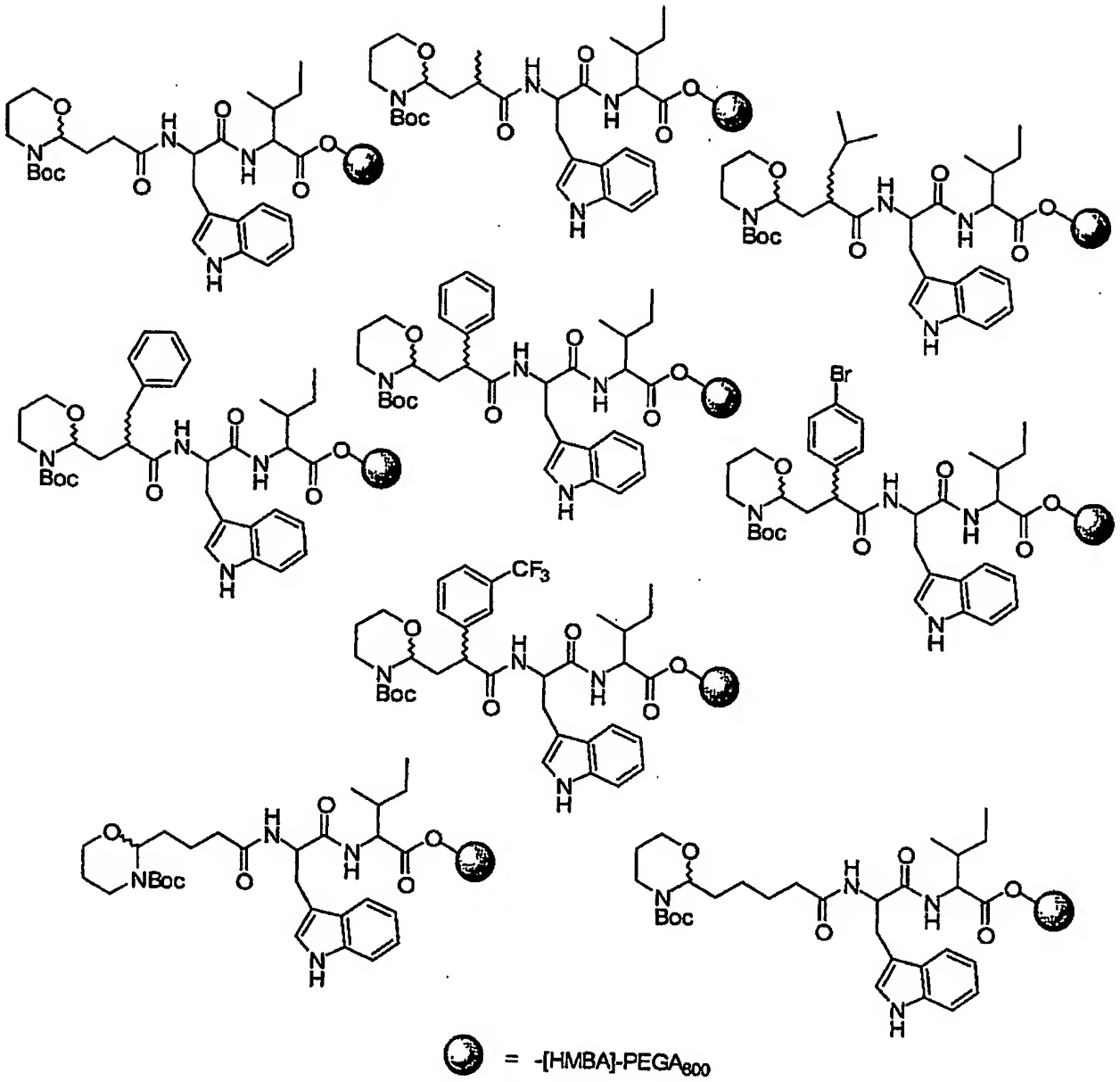
The synthesis of novel masked aldehyde building blocks **MABB 8-9** were carried out according to the previously reported procedure for the corresponding masked aldehyde building block (e.g where n=2),(Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 34-44) as illustrated by the reaction scheme below (with notation of the obtained yields in the individual synthetic transformations):




***MABB 8-9***

**Example 2**

**Potential substrates for Pictet-Spengler reactions 1 – variation of MABBs.** The following substrates were made for testing in the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.




These substrates are generally referred to as MABBX-Trp-Ile-OH when liberated from the solid support.

**Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 1 (Figure 9):**

**MABB1-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9a)**

**MABB2-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9b)**

**MABB3-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9c)**

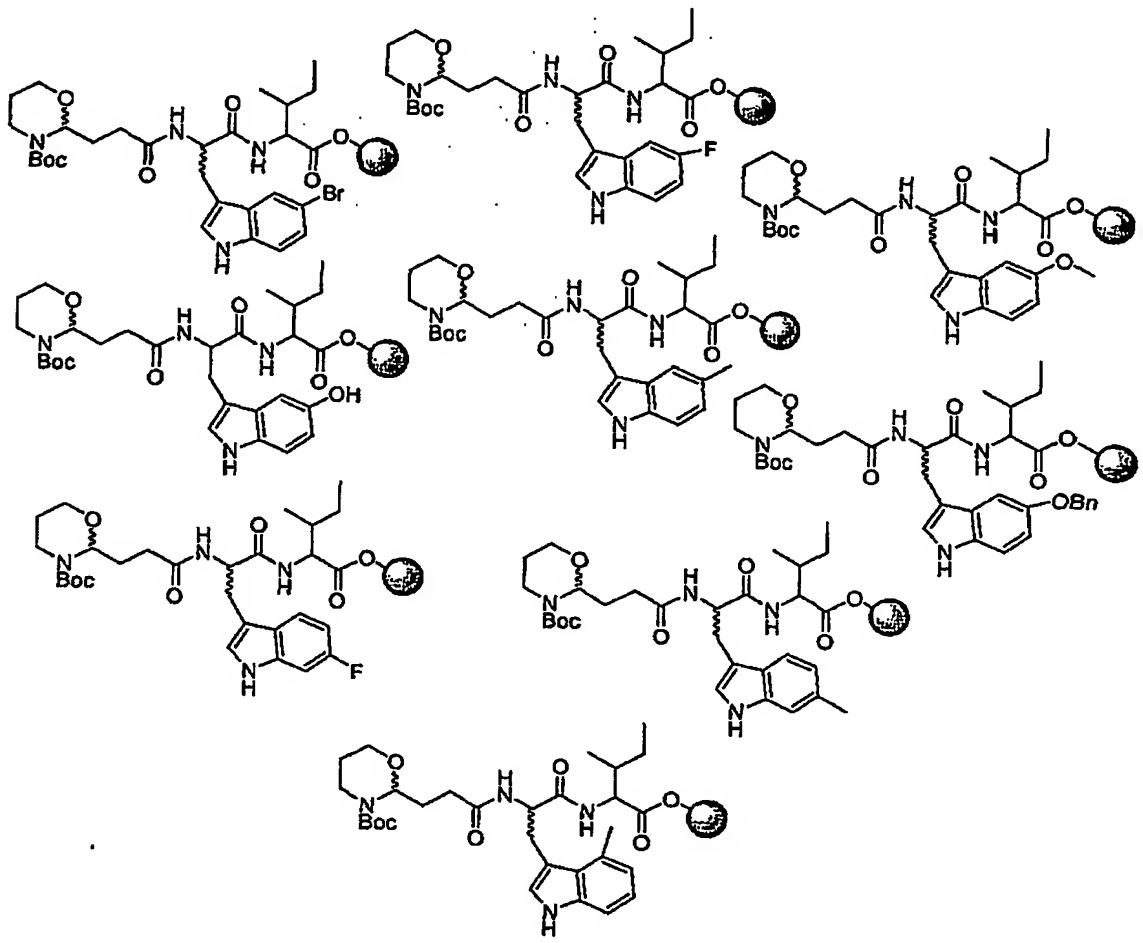
**MABB4-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9d)**

**MABB5-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9e)**

**MABB8-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9f)**

**MABB9-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 9g)**

**Potential substrates for Pictet-Spengler reactions 2 – variation of substituents on Trp.** The following substrates were made for testing in the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.



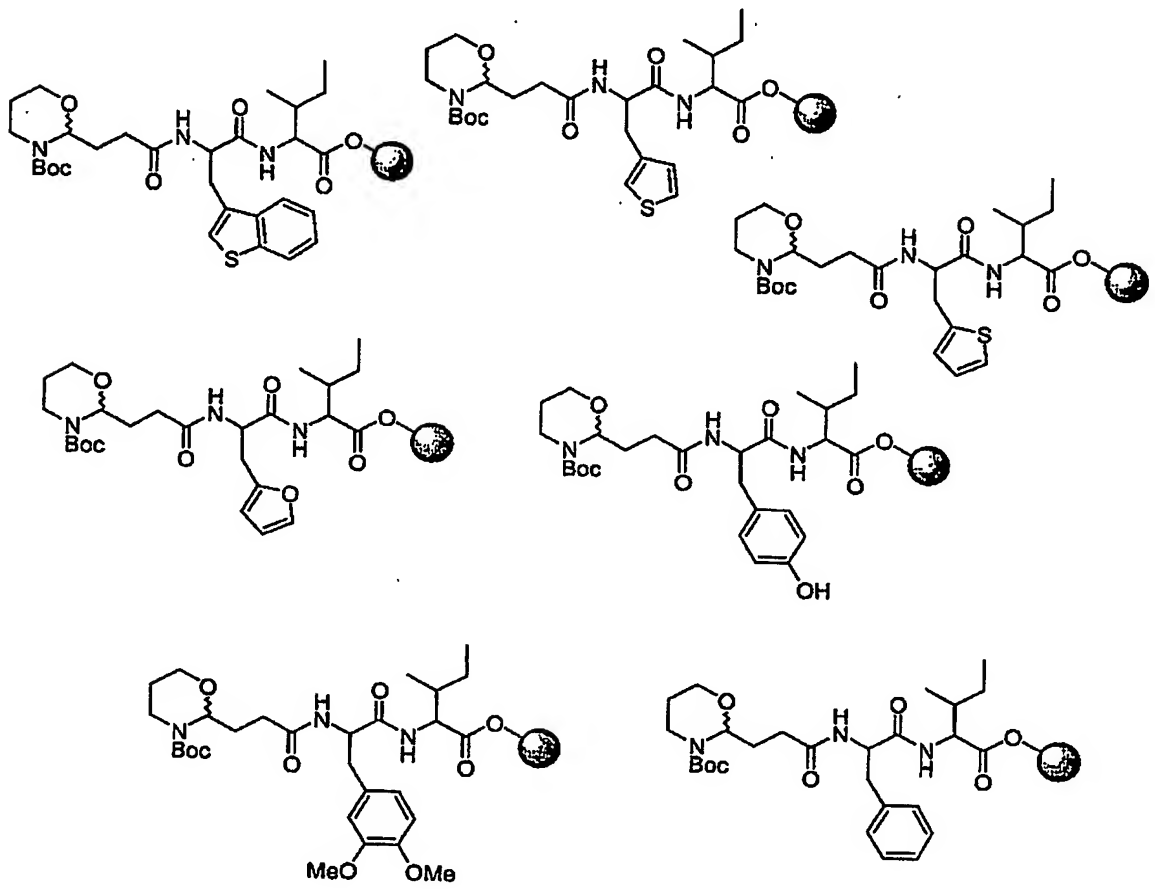
= -[HMBA]-PEGA$_{800}$

**Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 2 (Figure 10):**

**MABB1-(5-Br-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 10a)**

**MABB1-(5-OH-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 10b)**

**Potential substrates for Pictet-Spengler reactions 3 – variation of the aromatic side chain.** The following substrates were made for testing in the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.



= -[HMBA]-PEGA$_{800}$

**Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 3 (Figure 11):**

**MABB1-(3-(2-furyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 11a)**

**MABB1-(3-(2-thienyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 11b)**

**MABB1-(3-(3-*thienyl*)Ala)-Ile-OH (*Figure 11c*)**

**MABB1-(3-(3-benzothienyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 11d)**

**MABB1-Phe-Ile-OH (Figure 11e)**

**MABB1-(3,4-dimethoxy-Phe)-Ile-OH (Figure 11f)**

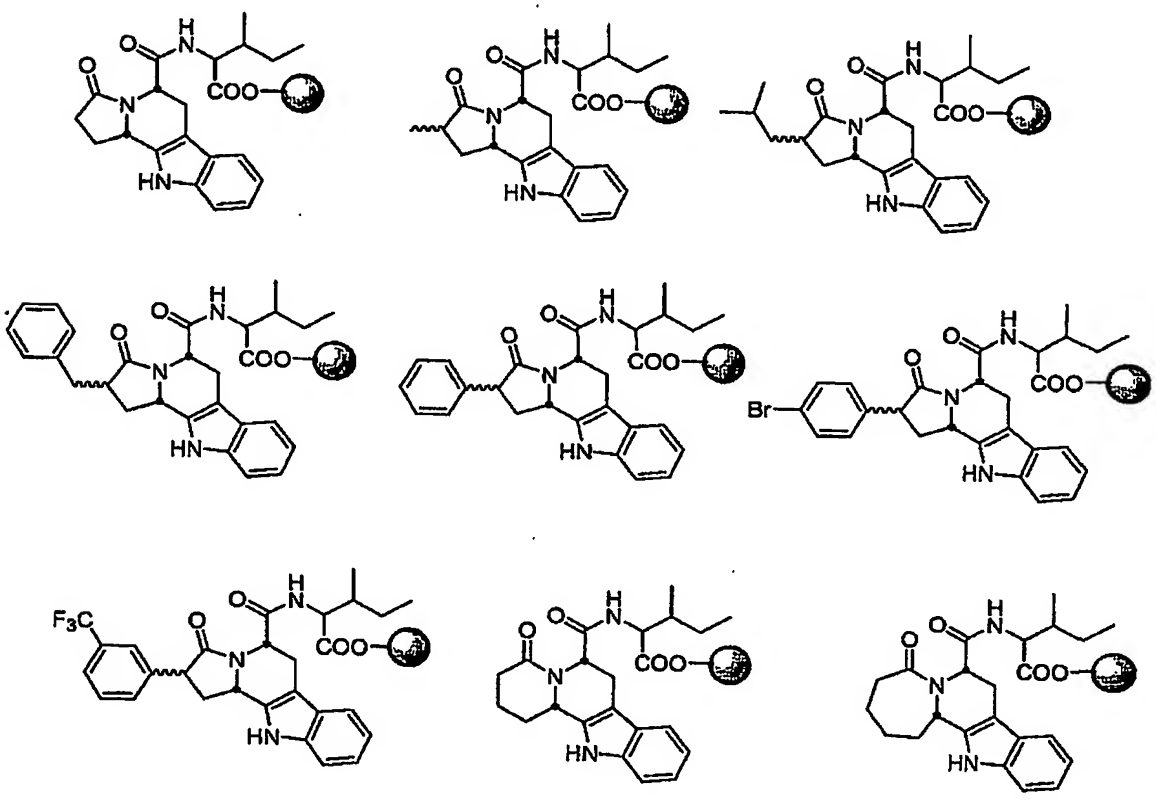
**MABB1-Tyr-Ile-OH (Figure 11g)**

**General procedure for solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions.** The solid-supported Pictet-Spengler reaction substrate was swelled in 10% TFA (aq.), and reacted for 2 h, before washing the resin with water (×6), DMF (×6), and DCM (×6). The resin was briefly lyophilized prior to cleavage of the reaction product from the solid support.

**Example 3**

**Possible Pictet-Spengler reaction products 1 – variation of MABBs.** The following products may be obtained via the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.

5



**Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 1 (Figure 12):**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction product of MABB1-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12a)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB2-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12b)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB3-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12c)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB4-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12d)**

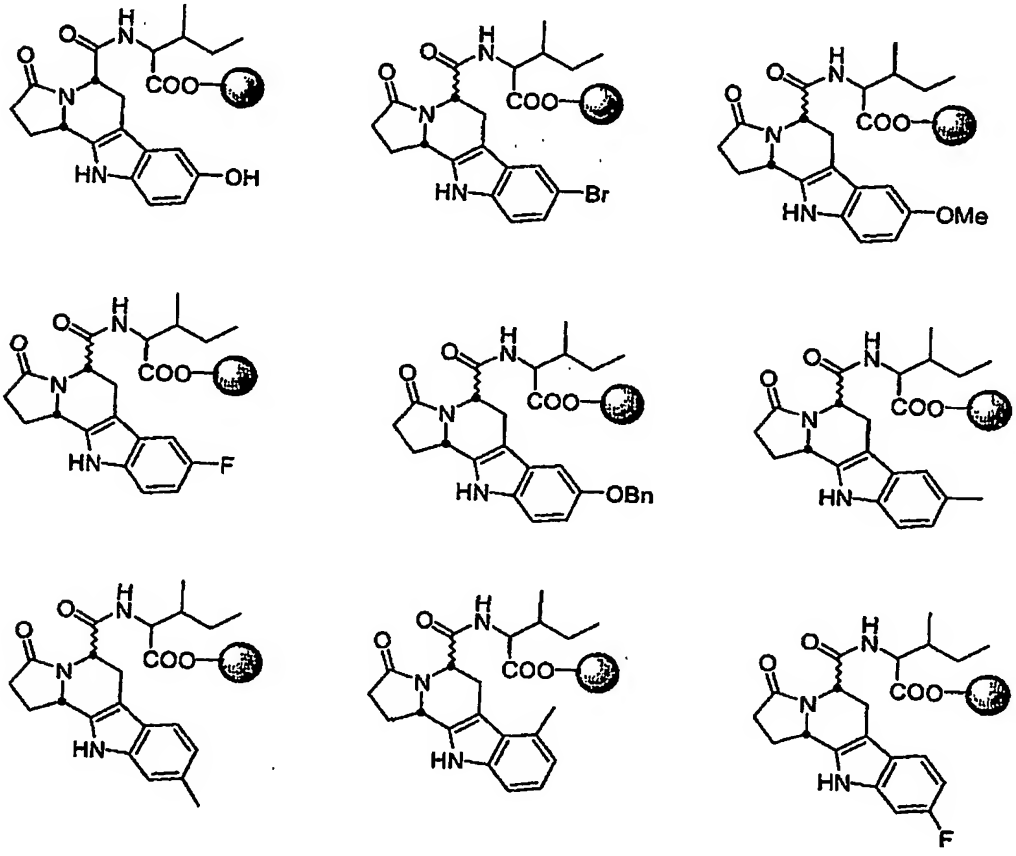
**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB5-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12e)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB6-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12f)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB7-Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 12g)**

**Possible Pictet-Spengler reaction products 2 – variation of substituents on Trp.** The following products may be obtained via the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.

5



Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 2 (Figure 13):

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-Br-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13a)

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-MeO-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13b)

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-BnO-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13c)

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-F-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13d)

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(6-F-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13e)

Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(4-Me-(D/L)-Trp)-Ile-OH (Figure 13f)

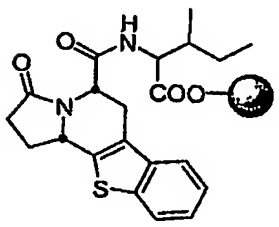
Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-Me-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13g)

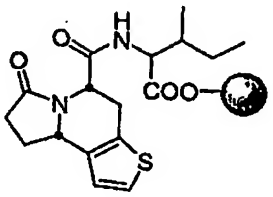
Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(6-Me-(D/L)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13h)

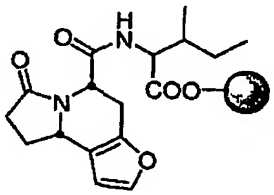
Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(5-OH)Trp-Ile-OH (Figure 13i)

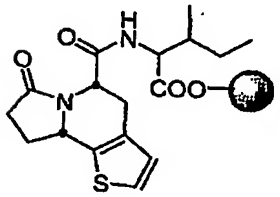
**Possible Pictet-Spengler reaction products 3 – variation of the aromatic side chain.** The following products may be obtained via the solid-phase Pictet-Spengler reactions of the present investigation.

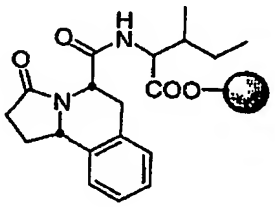
5

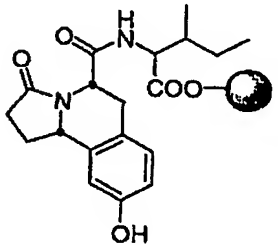


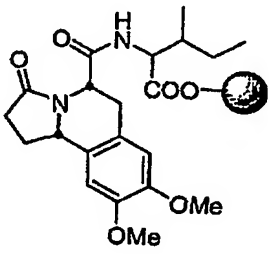












**Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 3 (Figure 14):**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(3-(2-furyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 14a)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(3-(2-thienyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 14b)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(3-(3-thienyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 14c)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(3-(3-benzothienyl)Ala)-Ile-OH (Figure 14d)**

**Pictet-Spengler reaction products of MABB1-(3,4-dimethoxy-Phe)-Ile-OH (Figure 14e)**

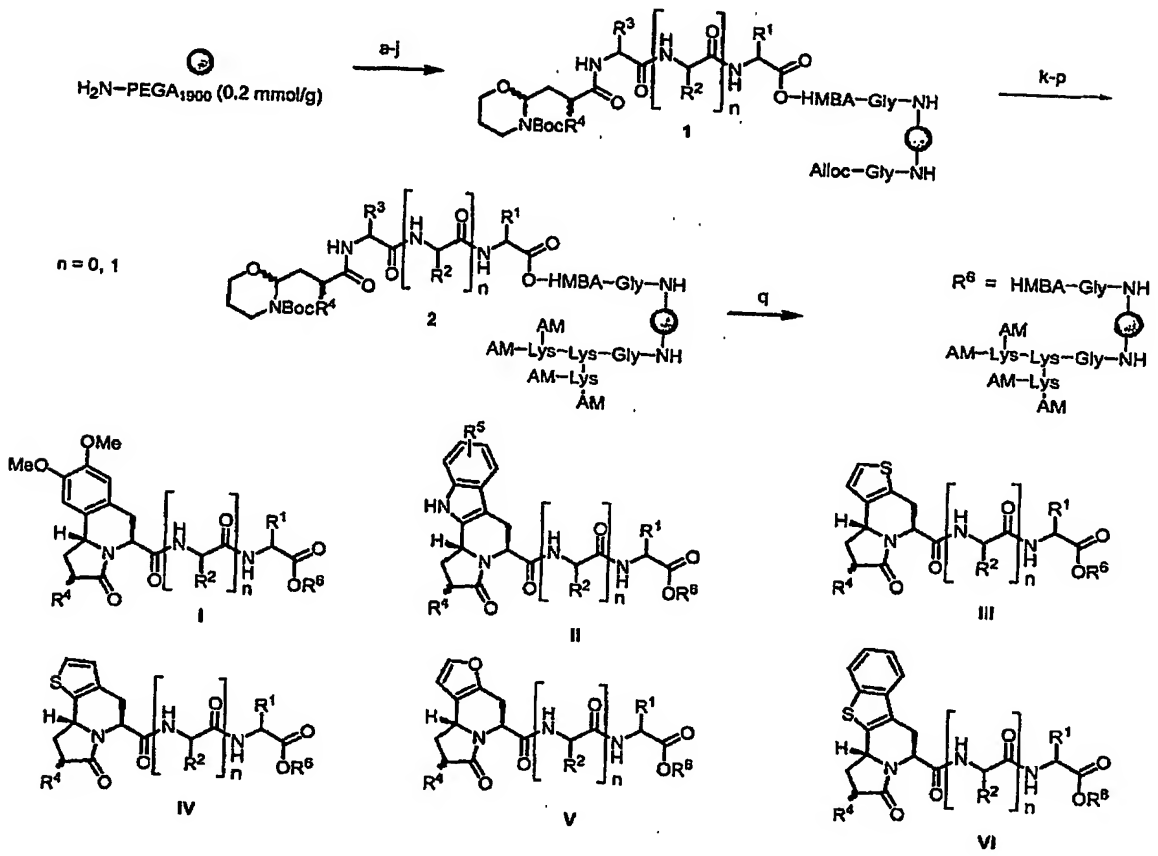
**Example 4**

**Library design and synthesis**

All Pictet-Spengler reaction methodology used in the present example has been developed and tested on the synthesis resin $PEGA_{800}$,[1] wherefore the analogous library resin $PEGA_{1900}$ was chosen for the library synthesis. In order to screen for active compounds, the library was prepared following a "one-bead-two-compounds" strategy. This was accomplished by treating the amino-functionalized resin with a mixture of Fmoc-Gly-OH:Alloc-Gly-OH (10:1) activated by the TBTU procedure[2] to provide orthogonal reaction sites for (a) split-and-mix library synthesis (via the Fmoc handle); and (b) attachment of an adhesion molecule (AM) (via the Alloc handle). The library synthesis of Pictet-Spengler reaction precursor **1** was carried out according to standard Fmoc amino acid coupling protocols for solid-phase peptide synthesis (Scheme 1). The base labile HMBA (hydroxymethylbenzoic acid) linker was employed. Prior to attachment of HMBA to $H_2N$-Gly-$PEGA_{1900}$ via the TBTU activation procedure, the Fmoc protecting group was removed by standard piperidine treatment. The HMBA linker provides a convenient cleavage site for quantitative release from the solid support via basic hydrolysis. Cleavage of product from a

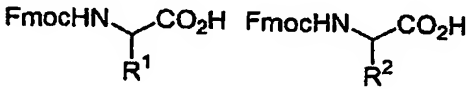
single bead was achieved by treating the bead with 0.1 M NaOH (aq) overnight, thus providing amounts of material sufficient for structure elucidation via QTOF ES-MSMS analysis. After splitting the resin portion into 10 different wells, the hydroxy handle of the linker was esterified by treatment with 10 MSNT-activated Fmoc amino acids (Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH),[3] thus attaching the first amino acid residue of the peptidomimetic sequence. Subsequent analogous split-and-mix synthesis and 3 cycles of Fmoc deprotection/TBTU-mediated couplings of 10 Fmoc amino acids as the second amino acid residue (Fmoc-$AA_2$-OH), 15 Fmoc amino acids incorporating the reactive aromatic side-chain (Fmoc-$AA_3$-OH), and 7 masked aldehyde building blocks ($R^4$-MABB-OH) (Table 1?), prepared as previously reported,[4,5] afforded the Pictet-Spengler reaction precursor **1**. In this coupling sequence, one fifth of the resin was withdrawn prior to the coupling of Fmoc-$AA_2$-OH (steps e and f), and remixed with the remaining resin from step g and forth. Ultimately, this afforded a library composed of tripeptoidal (n=0) and tetrapeptoidal (n=1) substructures. The Alloc protecting group of **1** was removed with $Pd(PPh_3)_4$, and subsequent TBTU coupling of Fmoc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH/Fmoc deprotection (× 2) provided the amino handles for attachment of the adhesion molecule AM, which was accomplished via the TBTU activation procedure. The adhesion molecule was synthesized via standard solid-phase peptide synthesis, and purified by preparative HPLC prior to attachment to resin. To finalize the library synthesis, the resin **2** was treated with 10% TFA (aq), which simultaneously facilitated the intramolecular *N*-acyl-iminium Pictet-Spengler reaction and removal of the Boc-protecting groups in the side-chains of $AA_1$ ($R^1$) and $AA_2$ ($R^2$). As a consequence of the structurally diverse aromatic heterocycles undergoing the intramolecular *N*-acyl-iminium Pictet-Spengler reaction, the library is graphically represented by the six sublibraries (**I-VI**) below (Scheme 1). Theoretically, the library is composed by 11270 different compounds (32890 when all stereoisomers are counted).

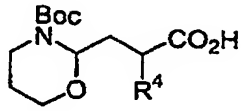
**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of a combinatorial library via the intramolecular *N*-acyliminium Pictet-Spengler reaction [a, b]




Reagents and conditions: (a) Fmoc-Gly-OH:Alloc-Gly-OH (9:1), TBTU, NEM, DMF; (b) 20% piperidine (DMF); (c) HMBA, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (d) Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH, MSNT, MeIm, $CH_2Cl_2$; (e) 20% piperidine (DMF); (f) Fmoc-$AA_2$-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (g) 20% piperidine (DMF); (h) Fmoc-$AA_3$-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (i) 20% piperidine (DMF); (j) $R^4$-MABB-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (k) $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ ($CHCl_3$:AcOH:NEM (925:50:25); (l) Fmoc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (m) 20% piperidine (DMF); (n) Fmoc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (o) 20% piperidine (DMF); (p) AM-OH, TBTU, NEM, DMF; (q) 10% TFA (aq); [a] Sublibraries **I**, **III**, **IV**, **V** and **VI** each consists of 700 different compounds (1300 when all stereoisomers are counted) with n=1, and 70 different compounds (130 when all stereoisomers are counted) with n=0; [b] Sublibrary **II** consists of 7000 different compounds (23400 when all stereoisomers are counted) with n=1, and 700 different compounds (2340 when all stereoisomers are counted) with n=0.

**Table 1.** Amino acids and building blocks for combinatorial library synthesis




| Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH | Fmoc-$AA_2$-OH | Fmoc-$AA_3$-OH | *rac*-$R^4$-MABB-OH |
|---|---|---|---|
| **$AA_1$** | **$AA_2$** | **$AA_3$ (Sublibrary structure)** | **$R^4$** |
| D-Phe | Phe | L-3,4-Dimethoxyphe (I) | H |
| D-Tyr(*t*-Bu) | Tyr(*t*-Bu) | Trp (II) | Me |
| D-Arg(Boc)$_2$ | Arg(Boc)$_2$ | D/L-(5-Br)Trp (II) | *i*-Bu |
| D-Lys(Boc) | Lys(Boc) | L-(5-OH)Trp (II) | Bn |
| D-His(Boc) | His(Boc) | D/L-(5-MeO)Trp (II) | Ph |
| D-Trp | Trp | D/L-(4-Me)Trp (II) | 4-Br-Ph |
| L-(1-Np)Ala | L-(1-Np)Ala | D/L-(5-Me)Trp (II) | 3-$CF_3$-Ph |
| L-Homophe | L-Homophe | D/L-(6-Me)Trp (II) | |
| L-(3-CN)Phe | L-(3-CN)Phe | D/L-(5-BnO)Trp (II) | |
| L-(4-$CF_3$)Phe | L-(4-$CF_3$)Phe | D/L-(5-F)Trp (II) | |
| | | D/L-(6-F)Trp (II) | |
| | | L-(2-Thi)Ala (III) | |
| | | L-(3-Thi)Ala (IV) | |
| | | L-(2-Fur)Ala (V) | |
| | | L-(3-BzThi)Ala (VI) | |

***Experimental***

**General Methods.** All solvents were of HPLC quality and stored over molecular sieves. Solid-phase organic combinatorial chemistry was routinely carried out using a 20-well peptide synthesizer equipped with sintered teflon filters (50 μm pores), teflon tubing, and valves, which allow suction to be applied below the wells. For all reactions on solid support, $PEGA_{1900}$ resin (0.2 mmol/g, VersaMatrix A/S) was used. Prior to use, the resin was washed with methanol (× 6), DMF (× 6), and $CH_2Cl_2$ (× 6). All commercially available reagents were used as received without further purification. Analysis of all solid-phase reactions was performed after cleaving the products as their free acids from the resin. A single bead was treated with 0.1 M aqueous NaOH (10 μL) in a 0.5 mL Eppendorf tube overnight, then diluted with $CH_3CN$ (20 μL), before filtering the solution, thereby providing a sample for ES MSMS analysis on a MicroMass QTOF Global Ultima mass spectrometer (mobile phase 50% $CH_3CN$ (aq), 0.1 μL/min).

**Solid-phase synthesis of combinatorial library.** Attachment of Fmoc-Gly-OH/Alloc-Gly-OH to the amino-functionalized $PEGA_{1900}$ resin (1.00 g) was carried out by premixing Fmoc-Gly-OH (0.62 mmol, 185 mg):Alloc-Gly-OH (0.07 mmol, 9.9 mg) (9:1, 3.0 equiv in total), *N*-ethyl morpholine (NEM, 0.92 mmol, 106 mg, 4.0 equiv), and *N*-[(1*H*-benzotriazol-1-yl)-(dimethylamino)methylene]-*N*-methylmethanaminium tetrafluoroborate *N*-oxide (TBTU, 0.66 mmol, 213 mg, 0.88 equiv) for 5 min in DMF. The resulting solution was added to the DMF preswollen resin and allowed to react for 5 h, followed by washing with DMF (× 6), and $CH_2Cl_2$ (× 6). Completion of the reaction was monitored using the Kaiser test. Prior to attachment of the HMBA linker via the procedure above, Fmoc-deprotection was accomplished with 20% piperidine in DMF, first for 2 min, and then for 18 min, followed by washing with DMF (× 6). Coupling of the first amino acid (Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH) to the HMBA derivatized resin was accomplished by treating the freshly lyophilized resin, split in 20 (2 × 10) wells via dry $CH_2Cl_2$, with a mixture of the Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH (4.5 equiv), MeIm (3.4 equiv), and MSNT (4.5 equiv) in $CH_2Cl_2$:THF (5:1).[3] The coupling was carried out for 1 h. When split in 20 wells, each well was assumed to hold ca. 50 mg resin, and accordingly added reagents relative to 0.01 mmol of material on the solid phase. Excess reagents were removed with suction below each well, followed by washing with dry DMF (× 1), and dry $CH_2Cl_2$ (× 1), before repeating the MSNT coupling of Fmoc-$AA_1$-OH once. Subsequent split-and-mix peptide syntheses

with Fmoc-$AA_2$-OH, Fmoc-$AA_3$-OH, and $R^4$-MABB-OH, respectively, were accomplished following the coupling procedure described above for the attachment of Fmoc-Gly-OH (via TBTU and NEM in DMF).[2] The usual washing protocol followed each coupling and deprotection step, and all couplings were checked via the Kaiser test. The Alloc group of **1** was removed by treating the resin with $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (0.06 mmol, 69 mg, 3.0 equiv) in $CHCl_3$:AcOH:NEM (925:50:25) for 2 h. Washing was carried out with $CHCl_3$ (× 6), a mixture of 5% sodium diethyldithiocarbamate trihydrate and 5% DIPEA in DMF (× 2), and DMF (× 10). The free amino group of the resin (ca. 0.02 mmol) was coupled with Fmoc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH (0.06 mmol, 35 mg, 3.0 equiv.) via the TBTU activation procedure, using TBTU (0.058 mmol, 19 mg, 2.88 equiv), and NEM (0.08 mmol, 9 mg, 4.0 equiv). Following Fmoc-deprotection with 20% piperidine in DMF, first for 2 min, and then for 18 min, followed by washing with DMF (× 6), the two newly liberated amino handles were coupled with Fmoc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH (0.12 mmol, 71 mg, 3.0 equiv pr amino handle) via the TBTU activation procedure, using TBTU (0.115 mmol, 37 mg, 2.88 equiv.) and NEM (0.16 mmol, 18 mg, 4.0 equiv). Another round of Fmoc-deprotection with 20% piperidine in DMF, first for 2 min, and then for 18 min, followed by washing with DMF (× 6), provided four amino handles, which were coupled to the adhesion molecule AM-OH (0.24 mmol, **Note:** insert mass mg, 3.0 equiv) via the TBTU activation procedure, using TBTU (0.23 mmol, 73 mg, 2.88 equiv.) and NEM (0.32 mmol, 37 mg, 4.0 equiv). The resin was washed with DMF (× 6), and $CH_2Cl_2$ (× 6), and lyophilized overnight. Finally, the library synthesis was finished by treating the resin with 10% TFA (aq) for 24 h, followed by washing with water (× 6), DMF (× 6), and $CH_2Cl_2$ (× 6). The resin was lyophilized overnight, and kept in the freezer (-18 °C).

**References**

(1) Meldal, M. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1993**, *33*, 3077-3080.

(2) Knorr, R.; Trzeciak, A.; Bannwarth, W.; Gillessen, D. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1989**, *30*, 1927-1930.

(3) Blankemeyer-Menge, B.; Nimtz, M.; Frank, R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1990**, *31*, 1701-1704.

(4) Groth, T.; Meldal, M. *J. Comb. Chem.* **2001**, *3*, 34-44.

(5) Nielsen, T. E.; Meldal, M. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *accepted for publication.*

**Claims**

1. A precursor molecule of the formula

[MABB-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

MABB is a masked aldehyde building block of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-AG-], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde,

$L_1$ is an aryl or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

AG is an acidic group capable of forming an amide bond,

AA is an amino acid of the formula -$NHCR^1R^2CO$- and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

[-NH-$L_2$-Nu-], wherein

-NH is an amino group that form the amide bond,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a π system,comprising an N, O or S atom or a chemical entity which is substituted with an N, O or S atom.

wherein NuBB is linked to $(AA)_n$ or if n=0 to MABB via an amide bond and with the proviso, that when x=0, then n is at least 1,

and wherein the masked aldehyde may be transformed into a free aldehyde, and the free aldehyde group is capable of interacting intramolecularly with an amide group, thereby forming an N-acyl-iminium ion,

and wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile for intramolecular reaction with said nucleophilic chemical entity,

and wherein said precursor molecule is attached to a solid support.

2. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the nucleophilic chemical entity is capable of participating in a Pictet-Spengler reaction, or a cyclization process involving a electronrich double or triple bond to form a new covalent bond, thereby forming a heterocyclic organic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom.

3. The precursor according to claim 2, wherein the new covalent bond is a C-C bond.

4. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the nucleophile chemical entity comprises one or more electron donating groups, and/or one or more nucleophilic heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes, alkynes and combinations thereof.

5. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein said nucleophilic chemical entity is selected from the group consisting of chemical entities comprising a functional group selected from the group consisting of -NHR, -$NH_2$, Alkyl-SH, Aryl-SH, Alkyl-OH, Aryl-OH, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes and alkynes

6. The precursor according to claim **2**, wherein said aromatic or heteroaromatic ring is selected from the group consisting of arenes, pyrroles, indoles, thiophenes, and furanes.

7. The precursor according to claim **2**, wherein said aromatic ring or alkenes is substituted by one or more selected from the group consisting of substituents comprising or consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy.

8. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the masked aldehyde is an aldehyde protected by an aldehyde protecting group.

9. The precursor according to claim 8, wherein the aldehyde protecting group may be removed by acid treatment, alkaline treatment, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis.

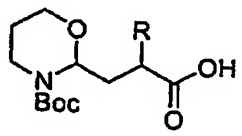
10. The precursor according to claim 8, wherein the aldehyde protecting group may be removed by treatment with acid.

11. The precursor according to claim **10**, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of Brøndsted acids and Lewis acids.

12. The precursor according to claim **11**, wherein the Brøndsted acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid.

13. The precursor according to claim 8, wherein the aldehyde protecting group is selected from the group consisting of N-Boc N,O-acetals, di-Boc N,N-acetals, N-Boc N,S-acetals, di-O-acetals, di-S-acetals, S,O-acetals, F-moc and triakylsilyl.

14. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the masked aldehyde has the structure




15. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the masked aldehyde has the formula –CO-X, wherein X is not –H.

16. The precursor according to claim **15**, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkylthio and alkylamino.

17. The precursor according to claim **15**, wherein the masked aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of esters, thiolesters, amides and Weinreb amids.

18. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the masked aldehyde is protected as an alcohol either free or protected by an alcohol protecting group.

19. The precursor according to claim 18, wherein the alcohol protecting group is selected from the group consisting of common silyl protecting groups, alkyl protecting groups and acyl protecting groups.

20. The precursor according to claim **19**, wherein the silyl protecting group is selected from the group consisting of TBDMS, TBDPS, TIPS, TES andTMS.

21. The precursor according to claim **20**, wherein the alkyl protecting group is selected from the group consisting of Bzl, tBu, Trt, MOM, MEM, BOM, Bn and mono- or polysubstituted benzylethers.

22. The precursor according to claim **20**, wherein the acyl protecting group is selected from the group consisting of Acetyl, substituted acetyl and benzoyl.

23. The precursor according to claim 18, wherein the said alcohol may be deprotected by treatment with acid, base, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis, and subsequently transformed into an aldehyde by oxidation.

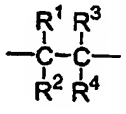
24. The precursor according to claim **23**, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of Brønsted acids and Lewis acids.

25. The precursor according to claim **24**, wherein the Brøndsted acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid.

26. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein $L_1$ is an alkyl chain.

27. The precursor according to claim **26**, wherein x is 2.

28. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein $L_1$ has the structure



,

wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group of functionalities consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl,

heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

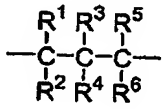
29. The precursor according to claim **28**, wherein R1 and R2 independently are selected from the group consisting of –H, alkyl phenyl, aryl phenyl substituted with halogen or halomethyl, alkoxy acyl amino, amino and alkyls.

30. The precursor according to claim **29**, wherein alkyl is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

31. The precursor according to claim **29**, wherein the alkyl comprises in the range of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

32. The precursor according to claim **26**, wherein x is 3.

33. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein wherein $L_1$ has the structure

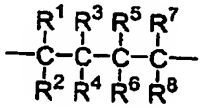


wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$ and $R^6$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino , amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

34. The precursor according to claim **29**, wherein alkyl is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

35. The precursor according to claim **29**, wherein R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and R6 independently are selected from the group consisting of –H, -OH and amino.

36. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein $L_1$ has the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$, $R^6$, $R^7$ and $R^8$ independently may be selected from the group of functionalities consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

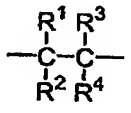
37. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the acidic group is selected from the group consisting of -CO (carbonyl), -CS, $-SO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_2H$ and $-PO_3H$

38. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the amide group is selected from the group consisting of carbonyl amide, thiocarbonyl amide, phosphinic amide, phosphonic amide, sulfonic acid amide and sulfinic acid amide.

39. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein AA is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring amino acids, unnatural α-amino acids, and unnatural β-amino acids.

40. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein n is 0.

41. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein $L_2$ has the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

42. The precursor according to claim 41, wherein alkyl is selected from the group consisting of linear alkyl, branched alkyl and cyclic alkyls.

43. The precursor according to claim **41**, wherein $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are –H, and $R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of amides and peptides, optionally substituted with one or more groups.

44. The precursor according to claim **41**, wherein $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are –H, and $R^1$ is selected from the group consisting of amides and peptides, wherein said amide or peptide is covalently linked to a solid support via a caboxyl group.

45. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic organic compound comprises 3 fused rings.

46. The precursor according to claim 45, wherein the fused rings are substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy,

47. The precursor according to claim **45**, wherein the heterocyclic organic compound comprises one ring derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

48. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic organic compound comprises 4 fused rings.

49. The precursor according to claim **48**, wherein the heterocyclic organic compound comprises two fused rings derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

50. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein ring A is a lactam.

51. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein ring A is a in the range of 4 to 11 membered heterocycle, preferably in the range of 5 to 8 membered heterocycle.

52. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein ring B is a 7 membered heterocycle.

53. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein ring B is a 6 membered heterocycle.

54. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein ring B is a 5 membered heterocycle.

55. The precursor according to claim1, wherein the precursor is covalently attached to said solid support.

56. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a resin bead.

57. The precursor according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a resin bead comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG).

58. The precursor according to claim **57**, wherein said resin is selected from the group consisting of PEGA, POEPOP, SPOCC, POEPS, Tentagel® and Jandagel®

59. A method of preparing a precursor molecule according to any of claims 1 to 58, comprising the steps of

i) Providing a masked aldehyde building block (MABB) of the formula:

$[MA\text{-}L_1\text{-}AG_2]$, wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde protected by an aldehyde protecting group,

$L_1$ is an aryl or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, S and O that may be substituted independently on each position, wherein x is an integer in the range of 1 to 10 wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

$AG_2$ is an acidic group capable of reacting with an amino group to form an amide,

ii) Providing a molecule of the structure [-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

AA is an amino acid and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

[-NH-$L_2$-Nu-], wherein

-NH- is the amino group that form an amide bond,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system comprising an N, O or S atom or a chemical entity which is substituted with an N, O or S atom,

wherein $(AA)_n$ is linked to NuBB via an amide bond,

and wherein said molecule is covalently attached to a solid support

v) Reacting said MABB with said molecule, thereby forming an amide bond between said MABB and said molecule

iv) Thereby obtaining a precursor molecule.

60. The method according to claim **59**, wherein reacting said MABB with said molecule comprises incubation in the presence of TBTU.

61. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the nucleophile chemical entity comprises one or more electron donating groups, and/or one or more nucleophilic heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes, alkynes and combinations thereof.

62. The method according to claim **59**, wherein said nucleophilic chemical entity is *selected from the group consisting of chemical entities comprising a functional* group selected from the group consisting of -NHR, -$NH_2$, Alkyl-SH, Aryl-SH, Alkyl-OH, Aryl-OH, mono-, di-, and trisubstituted aromatic and heteroaromatic rings, alkenes and alkynes

63. The method according to claim **59**, wherein said aromatic or heteroaromatic ring is selected from the group consisting of arenes, pyrroles, indoles, thiophenes, benzothiophenes and furanes.

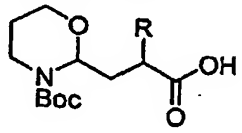
64. The method according to claim **59**, wherein said aromatic ring or alkenes is substituted by one or more selected from the group consisting of substituents comprising or consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy,

65. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the masked aldehyde is an aldehyde protected by an aldehyde protecting group.

66. The method according to claim 65, wherein the aldehyde protecting group may be removed by acid treatment, alkaline treatment, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis.

67. The method according to claim **65**, wherein the aldehyde protecting group is selected from the group consisting of N-Boc N,O-acetals, di-Boc N,N-acetals, N-Boc N,S-acetals, N-F-moc N,O-acetals, di- F-moc N,N-acetals, N- F-moc N,S-

acetals, of N-triakylsilyl N,O-acetals, di-triakylsilyl N,N-acetals, N- triakylsilyl N,S-acetals, di-O-acetals, di-S-acetals and S,O-acetals.

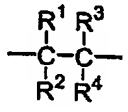
68. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the protected aldehyde has the structure 

69. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the protected aldehyde has the formula –CO-X, wherein X is not –H.

70. The method according to claim **69**, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkylthio and alkylamino.

71. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the protected aldehyde is an alcohol either free or protected by an alcohol protecting group.

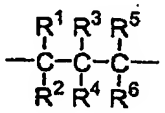
72. The method according to claim **59**, wherein $L_1$ is an alkyl chain.

73. The method according to claim **59**, wherein $L_1$ has the structure  ,

wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group of functionalities consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino,

dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

74. The method according to claim **59**, wherein wherein $L_1$ has the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$, $R^5$ and $R^6$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

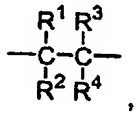
75. The method according to claim **59**, wherein $AG_2$ is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid halogenid, sulfonyl halogenid and phosphonyl halogenid.

76. The method according to claim **59**, wherein the amide is selected from the group consisting of carbonyl amide, thiocarbonyl amide, phosphinic amide, phosphonic amide, sulfonic acid amide and sulfinic acid amide.

77. The method according to claim **59**, wherein AA is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring amino acids, unnatural α-amino acids, and unnatural β-amino acids.

78. The method according to claim **59**, wherein n is 0.

79. The method according to claim **59**, wherein $L_2$ has the structure



wherein $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ independently may be selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, amides, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, fused heterocycles and mixtures thereof, wherein each of the aforementioned may be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of –H, –OH, -SH, halogen, carboxyl, carbonyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, silyloxy, keto, heterocycles, fused ring systems, and fused heterocycles.

80. The method according to claim **54**, wherein the solid support is a resin bead.

81. The method according to claim **80**, wherein the solid support is a resin bead comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG).

82. A method of preparing a heterocyclic organic compound comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A incorporates a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

a) Providing a precursor molecule of the formula:

[MABB-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

MABB is a masked aldehyde building block of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-AG-], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde,

$L_1$ is an aryl or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

AG is an acidic group capable of forming an amide bond,

AA is an amino acid of the formula -$NHCR^1R^2CO$- and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

[-NH-$L_2$-Nu-], wherein

-NH is an amino group that form an amide bond,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system,

wherein NuBB is linked to $(AA)_n$ or if n=0 to MABB via an amide bond and with the proviso, that when x=0, then n is at least 1,

and wherein the masked aldehyde may be transformed into a free aldehyde, and the free aldehyde group is capable of interacting intramolecularly with an amide group, thereby forming an N-acyl-iminium ion,

and wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile for intramolecular reaction with said nucleophilic chemical entity,

and wherein said precursor molecule is attached to a solid support.

b) Transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde
c) Reacting said free aldehyde with an amide group within said precursor molecule, thereby obtaining an N-acyl-iminium ion, wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile
d) Performing an intramolecular nucleophilic reaction involving the N-acyl-iminium ion and the nucleophilic chemical entity forming a new covalent bond, thereby obtaining said cyclic organic compound.

82. The method accordring to claim 82, wherein the precursor molecule is the precursor molecule according to any of claims 1 to 57.

85. The method according to 82, wherein the intramolecular nucleophilic reaction is a Pictet Spengler reaction.

86. The method according to 82, wherein transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde comprises acid treatment, alkaline treatment, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis.

87. The method according to claim 82, wherein transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde comprises treatment with acid.

88. The method according to claim 87, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of Brøndsted acids and Lewis acids.

89. The method according to claim 88, wherein the Brøndsted acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, CSA, PTSA, TFA, TCA, HCl and mono- or dichloroacetic acid.

90. The method according to claim 86, wherein transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde comprises oxidation of an alcohol group to obtain a free aldehyde.

91. The method according to claim 86, wherein transforming the masked aldehyde into a free aldehyde comprises removing an alcohol protecting group, thereby obtaining a free alcohol and oxidation of said alcohol to obtain a free aldehyde.

92. The method according to claim 91, wherein the said alcohol protecting group may be removed by treatment with acid, base, fluoridolysis or hydrogenolysis, and subsequently transformed into an aldehyde by oxidation.

93. The method according to claim 82, wherein said heterocyclic organic compound comprises 3 fused rings.

94. The method according to claim 93, wherein the heterocyclic compound is substituted with one or more selected from the group consisting of H, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyloxy, thiol, alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, sulphonyl, sulphoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, acylamino, diacylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkyl, branched alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, nitro, cyano, halogeno, and silyloxy,

95. The method according to claim 93, wherein the heterocyclic organic compound comprises one ring derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

96. The method according to claim 82, wherein said heterocyclic organic compound comprises 4 fused rings.

97. The method according to claim 96, wherein the heterocyclic organic compound comprises two fused rings derived from the nucleophile chemical entity.

98. The method according to claim 82, wherein ring A is a lactam.

99. The method according to claim 82, wherein ring A is a in the range of 4 to 11 membered heterocycle, preferably in the range of 5 to 8 membered heterocycle.

100. The method according to claim 82, wherein ring B is a 7 membered heterocycle

101. The method according to claim 82, wherein ring B is a 6 membered heterocycle.

102. The method according to claim 82, wherein ring B is a 5 membered heterocycle.

103. The method according to claim 82, wherein the precursor is covalently attached to said solid support.

104. The method according to claim 103, wherein the solid support is a resin bead.

105. The method according to claim 105, wherein the solid support is a resin bead comprising polyethylene glycol (PEG).

106. The method according to claim 105, wherein said resin is selected from the group consisting of PEGA, POEPOP, SPOCC, POEPS, Tentagel® and Jandagel®

107. The method according to any of claims 103 to 106, wherein the heterocyclic compound obtained by said method is covalently coupled to said solid support.

108. A method of preparing a library comprising at least 2 different cyclic organic compounds each comprising at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A is substituted with a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, said method comprising the steps of

i) Providing at least 2 different precursor molecules of the formula:

[MABB-$(AA)_n$-NuBB], wherein

MABB is a masked aldehyde building block of the formula:

[MA-$L_1$-AG-], wherein

MA is a masked aldehyde,

$L_1$ is an aryl or alkyl comprising x covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein x is an integer in the range of 0 to 10, and wherein said aryl ring or alkyl chain may be substituted independently on each position, and wherein the atom most proximal to the CO group is a carbon atom,

AG is an acidic group capable of forming an amide bond,

AA is an amino acid of the formula -$NHCR^1R^2CO$- and n is an integer in the range of 0 to 5,

NuBB is a nucleophile building block of the formula

[-NH-$L_2$-Nu-], wherein

-NH is an amino group that form an amide bond,

$L_2$ is an alkyl comprising in the range of 1 to 4 covalently linked atoms selected from the group consisting of C, N, O and S, wherein each atom may be independently substituted,

Nu is a nucleophilic chemical entity comprising a $\pi$ system,

wherein NuBB is linked to $(AA)_n$ or if n=0 to MABB via an amide bond and with the proviso, that when x=0, then n is at least 1,

and wherein the masked aldehyde may be transformed into a free aldehyde, and the free aldehyde group is capable of interacting intramolecularly with an amide group, thereby forming an N-acyl-iminium ion,

and wherein said N-acyl-iminium ion is capable of acting as an electrophile for intramolecular reaction with said nucleophilic chemical entity,

and wherein said precursor molecule is attached to a solid support.

ii) performing the method according to any of claims 82 to 107 for each of said precursor molecules

iii) thereby obtaining a library comprising at least 2 different cyclic organic compounds.

3. The method according to claim 108, wherein the precursor molecule is a precursor molecule according to any of claims 1 to **57**.

109. The method according to claim 108, wherein said library comprises at least 10, such as at least 20, for example at least 30, such as at least 40, for example at least 50, such as at least 100, for example at least 500, such as at least 1000 different heterocyclic organic compounds.

110. The method according to claim 108, wherein all precursor molecules provided comprise identical scaffolds, which are differentially substituted.

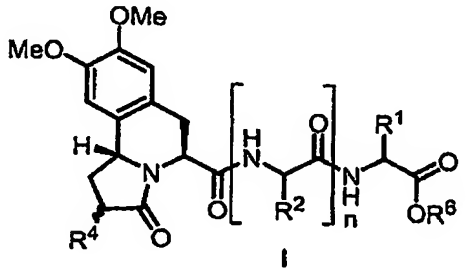
111. The method according to claim 108, wherein all precursor molecules provided comprise identical masked aldehydes.

112. The method according to claim 108, wherein the library is prepared using parallel synthesis.

113.
Library of heterocyclic compounds, wherein said compounds comprises at least 2 fused rings designated A and B, wherein ring A is substituted with a carbonyl group and ring A and B shares at least one N atom, and wherein a sequence of one or more amino acids is covalently linked to said fused rings, wherein said library is prepared by the method according to any of claims 108 to 112, and wherein said heterocyclic compounds are linked to a solid support.

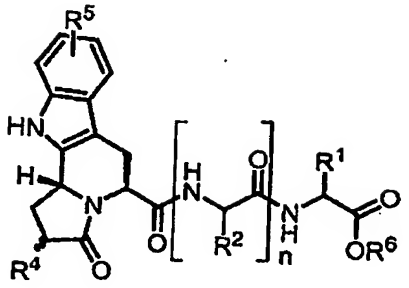
114. The library according to claim 113, wherein said library comprises at least 20, for example at least 30, such as at least 40, for example at least 50, such as at least 100, for example at least 500, such as at least 1000 different heterocyclic organic compounds.

115. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



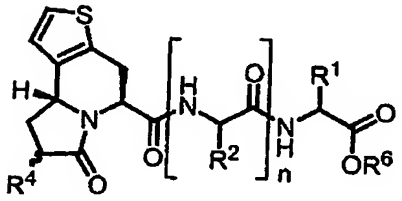

I

116. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



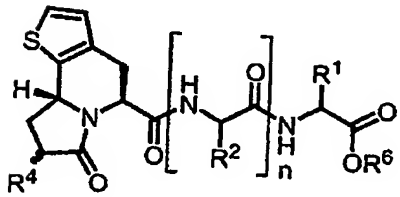
II

117. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



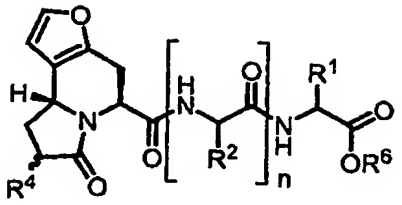
III

118. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



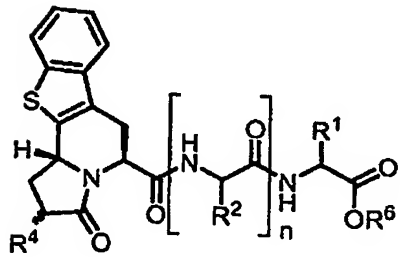
IV

119. The library according to any of claims 0 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



V

120. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein the library comprises or consists of compounds of the general formula:



VI

121. The library according to any of claims 113 and 114, wherein said solid support is resin beads.

122. The library according to claim 121, wherein a single resin bead only is coupled to one kind of heterocyclic compound.

123. The library according to claim 121, wherein said solid support is selected from the group consisting of the biocompatible PEG-based resins PEGA, POEPOP, SPOCC, POEPS, Tentagel®, and Jandagel®

124. A method of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of associating with a cell surface molecule naturally expressed on the surface of a cell, said method comprising the steps of

v) Providing the library according to any of claims 112 to 123,

vi) Providing a composition comprising said cell surface molecule,

vii) Incubating said library with said composition

viii) Identifying heterocyclic compounds of said library capable of specifically associating with said cell surface molecule.

125. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is associated with a clinical condition.

126. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is associated with obesity.

127. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is a protein.

128. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is a receptor.

129. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is a G-protein coupled receptor.

130. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is the melanocortin receptor.

131. The method according to claim 124, wherein the cell surface molecule is linked to a detectable label.

132. The method according to claim 124, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of dyes, flourescent compounds, enzymes, heavy metals and radioactive groups.

133. Use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to the method according to any of claims 124 to 132 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a clinical condition in an individual in need thereof.

134. Use according to claim 133, wherein said clinical condition is obesity.

135. Use acccording to claim 133, wherein said heterocyclic compound is a compound according to any of claims.

136. Use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to the method according to any of claims 124 to 132 for affinity chromatography.

137. Use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified according to the method according to any of claims 124 to 132 for affinity labelling.

140. A method of identifying a heterocyclic organic compound capable of acting as a protease inhibitor, said method comprising the steps of

i) Providing the library according to any of claims 112 to 123,
ii) Providing a peptide substrate of a protease,
iii) Providing a protease capable of cleaving said substrate
iv) Incubating said library with said peptide substrate and said protease
v) Identifying heterocyclic compounds of said library capable of specifically inhibiting cleavage of said substrate.

141. The method according to claim 140, wherein said peptide substrate is immobilised on a solid support.

142. The method according to claim 140, wherein the heterocyclic organic compounds and the peptide substrate are immobilised on resin beads, wherein each resin bead comprises one kind of heterocyclic compound and a peptide substrate.

143. The method according to claim 140, wherein cleavage of said peptide substrate may be monitored by a change in fluorescence.

144. Use of a heterocyclic organic compound identified by the method according to any of claims 140 to 144 as a protease inhibitor.

**Figure 1. Synthetic use of the intramolecular aldehyde-amide N condensation**

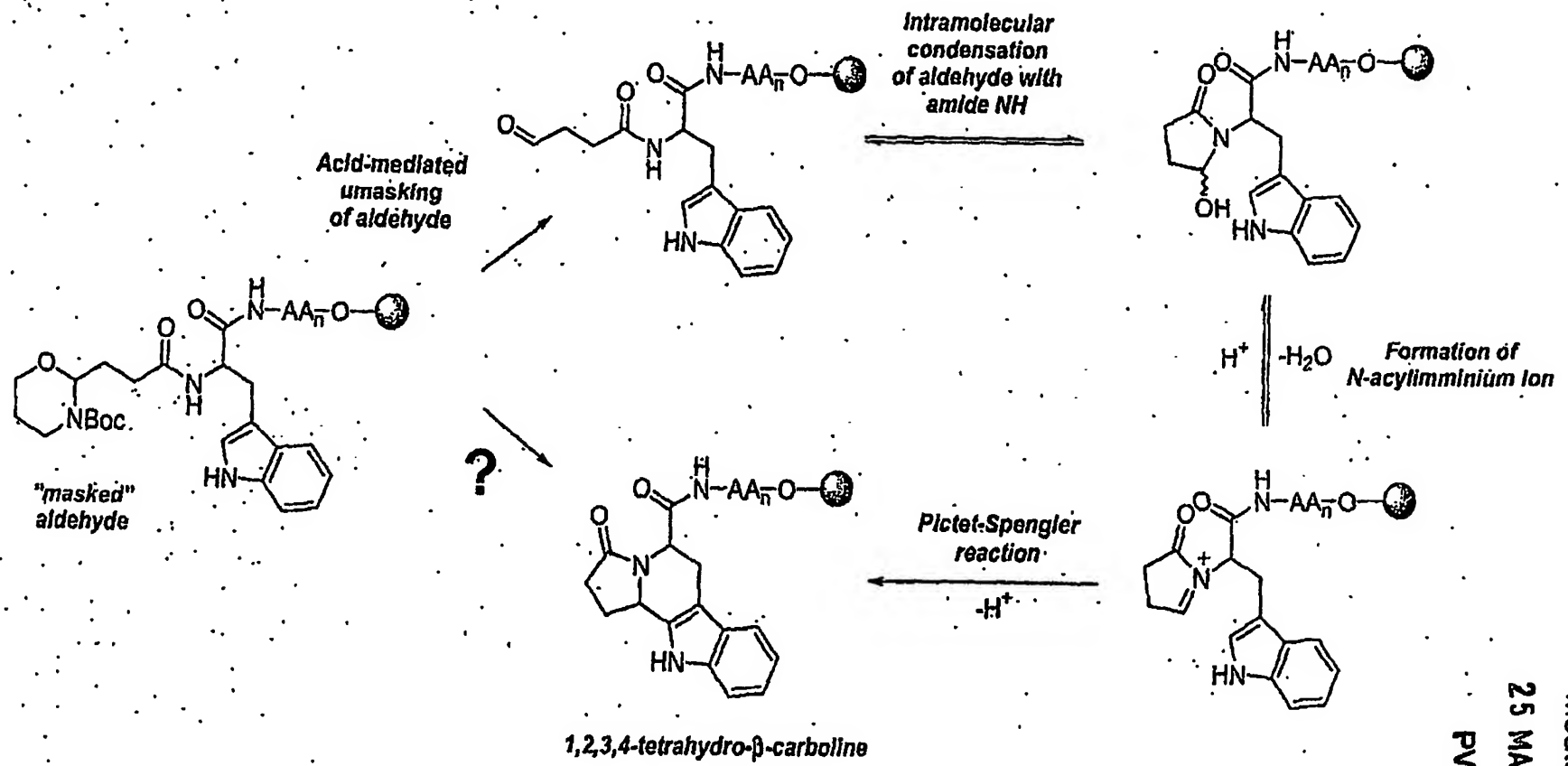
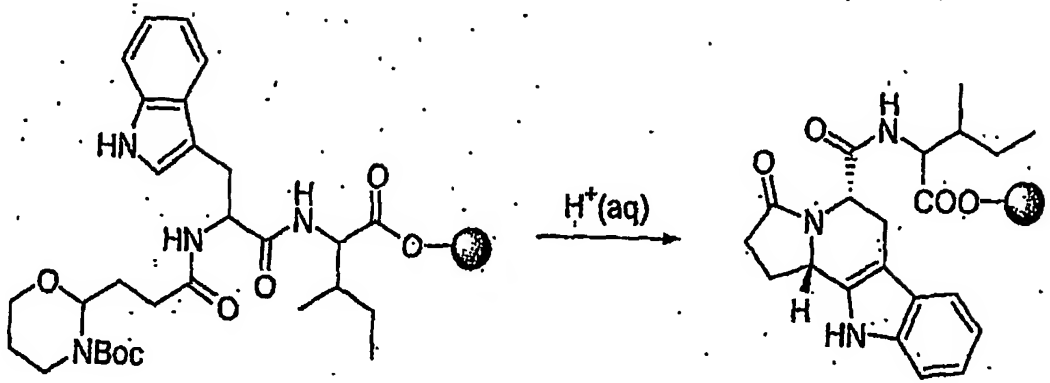


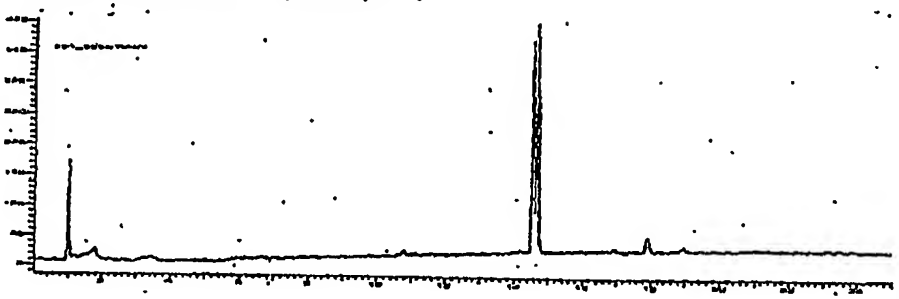
*Figure 2. Screening of acids (aq.) for aldehyde unmasking/Pictet-Spengler reaction*

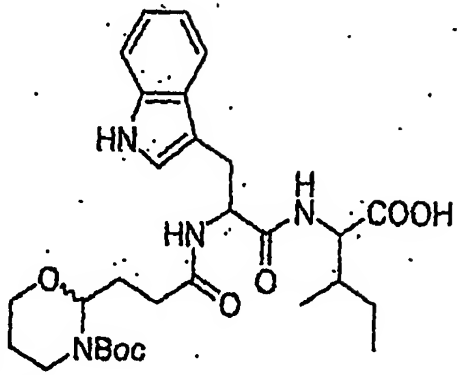



| Entry | Acid (aq) | Ratio (substrate:intermediates:PS-product) 15 min | 1h | 20h |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 50% HCOOH | 0:10:90 | 0:0:100 | - |
| 2 | 50% $CH_3COOH$ | 95:5:0 | 70:20:10 | 0:0:100 |
| 3 | 50% $CH_2ClCOOH$ | 5:40:55 | 0:0:100 | - |
| 4 | 20% CSA | 0:20:80 | 0:0:100 | - |
| 5 | 20% $NCH_2COOH$ | 30:40:30 | 0:20:80 | 0:0:100 |
| 6 | 10% $CCl_3COOH$ | 0:20:80 | 0:0:100 | - |
| 7 | 10% $CF_3COOH$ | 0:0:100 | - | - |
| 8 | 10% HCl | 0:0:100 | - | - |

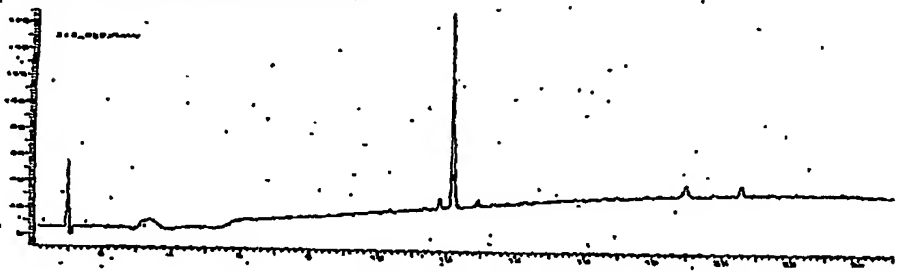
*Figure 3. HPLC examples of Pictet-Spengler reaction precursor and product*

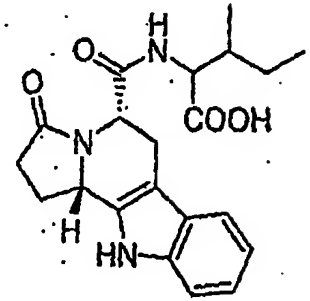
*HPLC of substrate (>90%)*






*HPLC of product (>90%)*






*$^1$H NMR ($d^3$-ACN) of crude product*

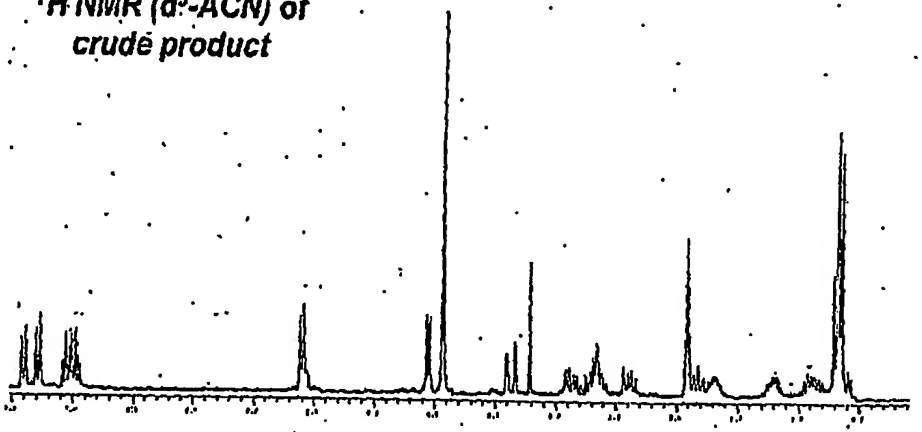


*Figure 4: Preparation of substrates for Pictet-Spengler reactions via standard peptide synthesis procedures*

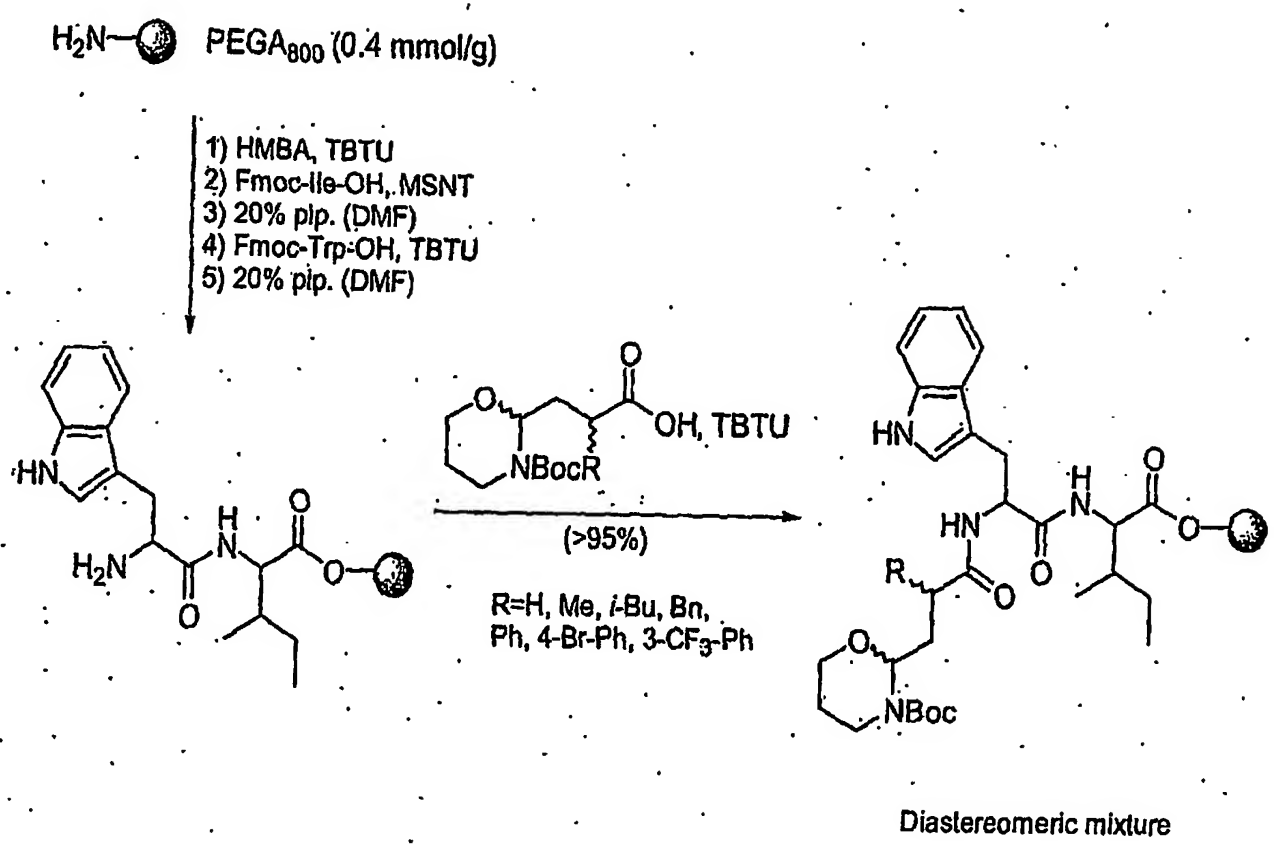
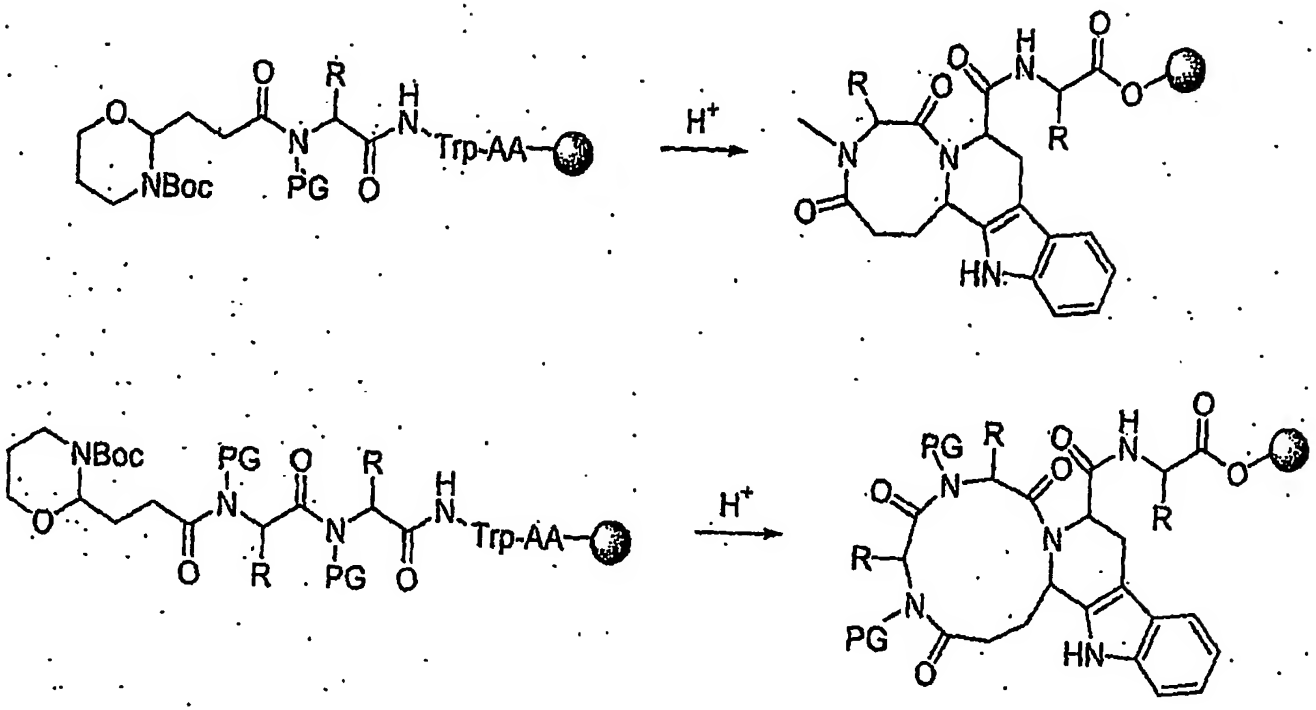
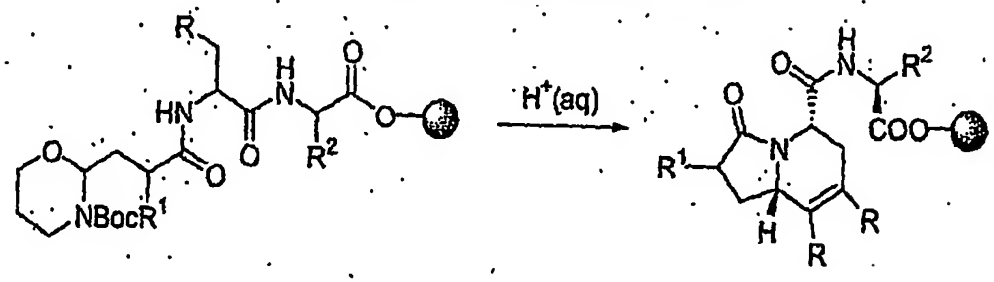


*Figure 5. Extending of the methodology to the formation of larger ring systems by inserting N-protected AA(s) between MABB and Trp*

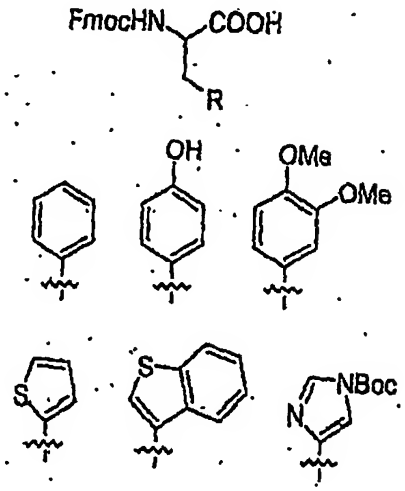


## *Figure 6. Defining the possible scaffolds for combinatorial chemistry - Screening of potential reactive side-chains: substituted Trps and aromatic side-chains*

***Defining the possible scaffolds for solid-phase multi-component Pictet-Spengler reactions***




***Commercially available AA's to be inserted before MABBS***




***Screening of Trp analogues***

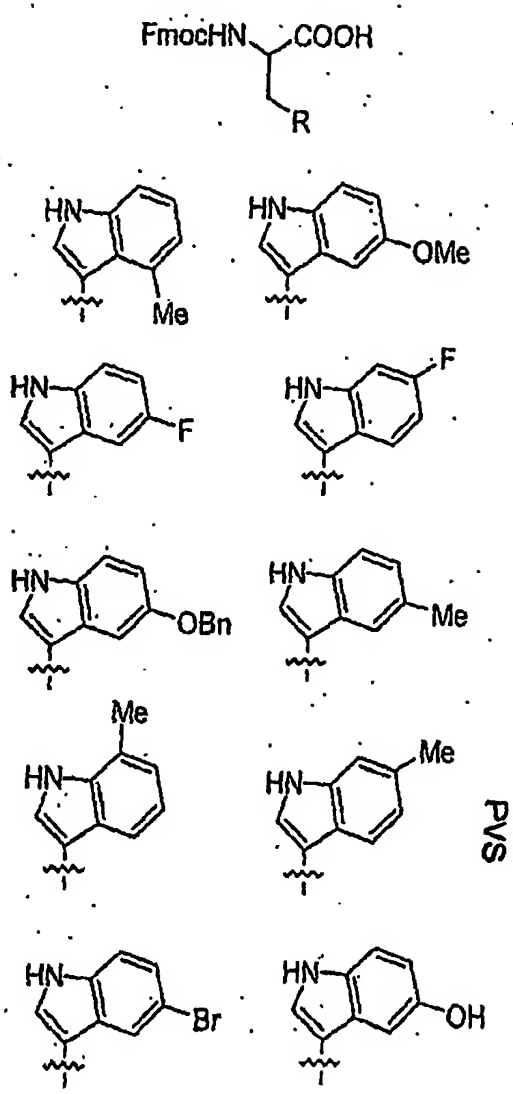
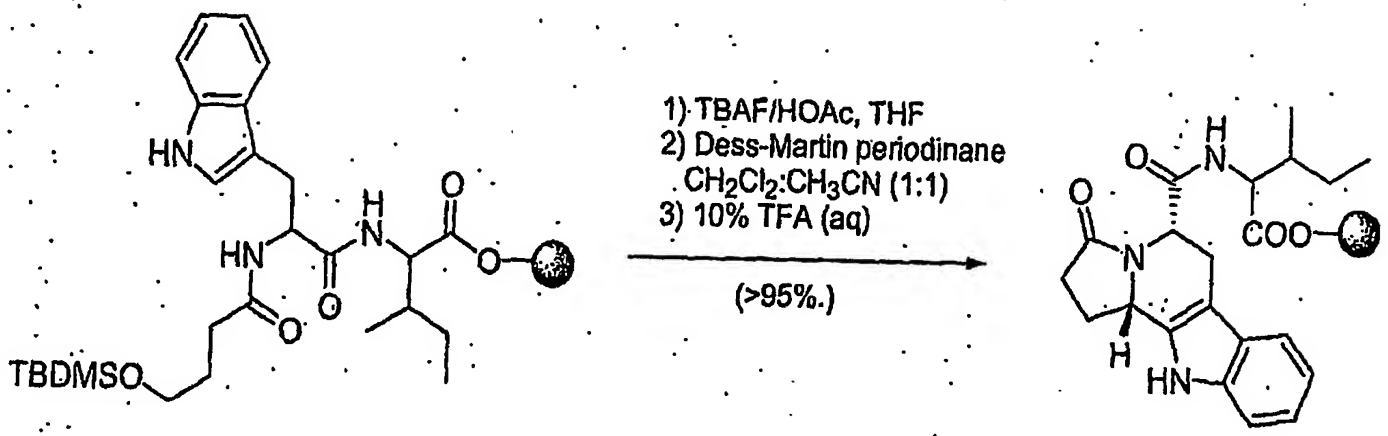
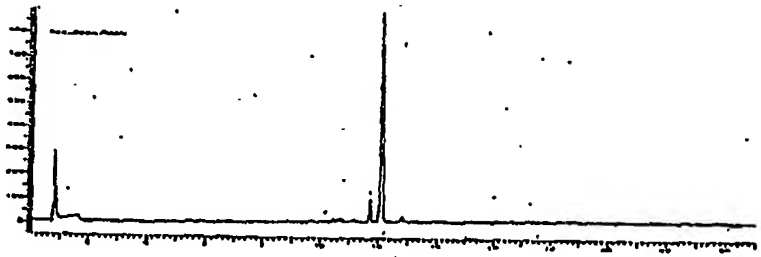
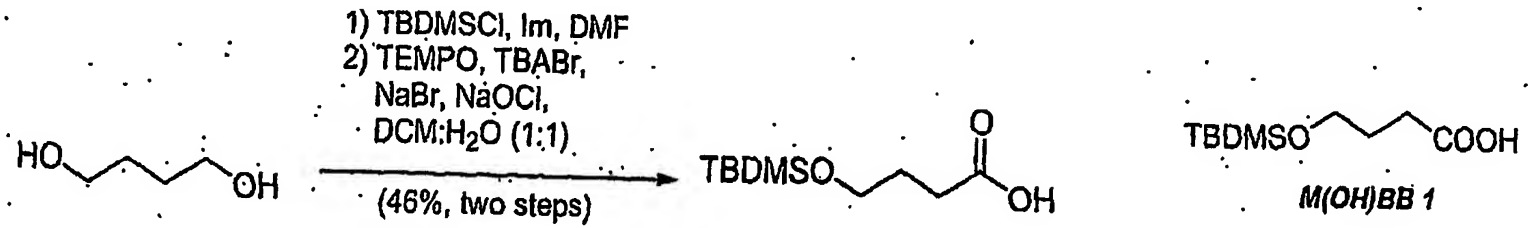


*Figure 7. Alcohol oxidation approach towards aldehydes capable of undergoing intamolecular amide N condensation/Pictet-Spengler reactions*




*HPLC of product (>95%)*






*M(OH)BB 1*

*Figure 8: Applications of amino-functionalized M(OH)BBs*

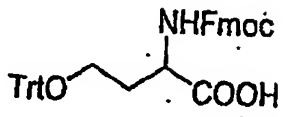
*A solid-phase oxidation approach using commercially available M(OH)BBs*

*Constrained Trp analogues, or Trp-containing motifs, e.g. analogues of*

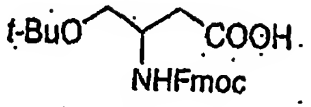
*Somatostatin, Cholecystokinin, Melanotropin, Growth Hormone Secretagogues*

⇓

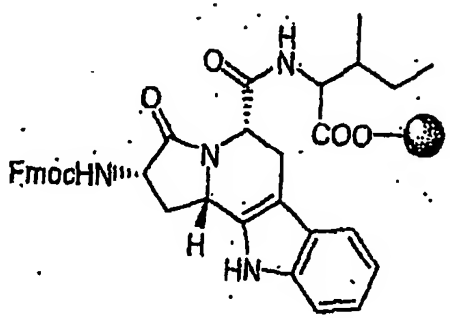
*Highly potent and selective ligands for biological target receptors*

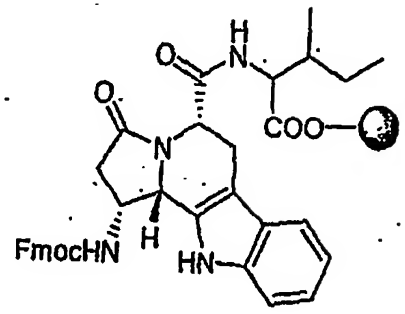



*M(OH)BB 2*



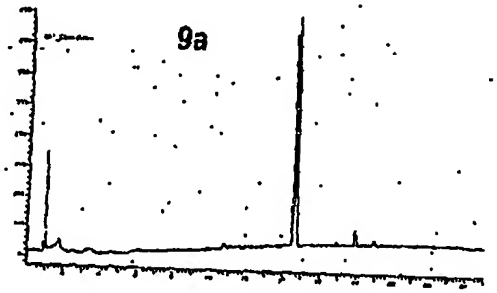

*M(OH)BB 3*

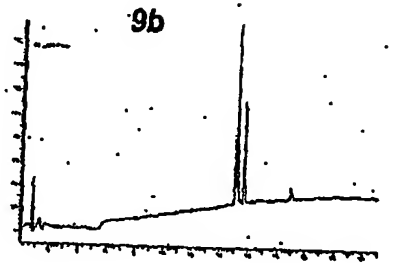


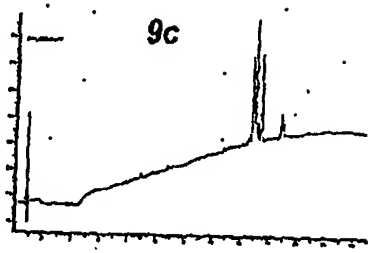



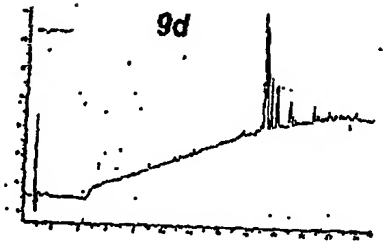

*Examples of accessible structures via oxidation/Pictet-Spengler reaction approach*

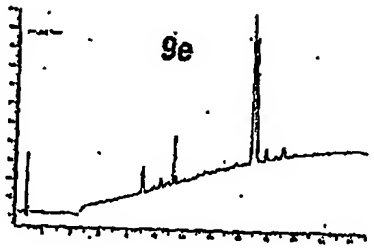
*Figure 9. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 1*

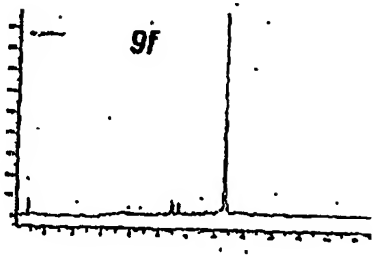


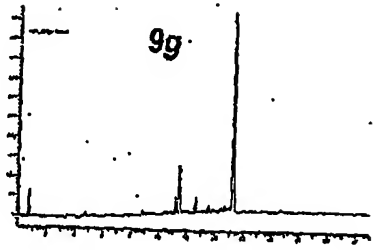



*Figure 10. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 2*

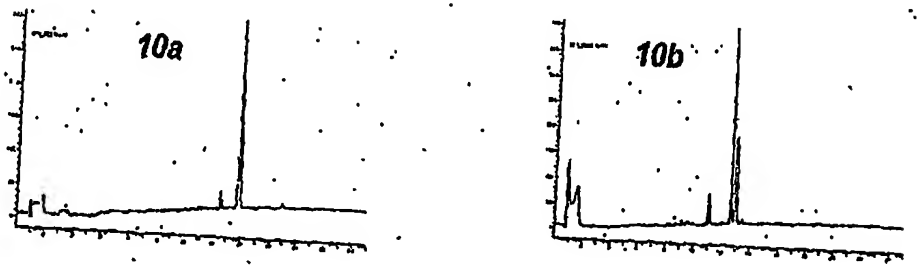


*Figure 11. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction substrates 3*

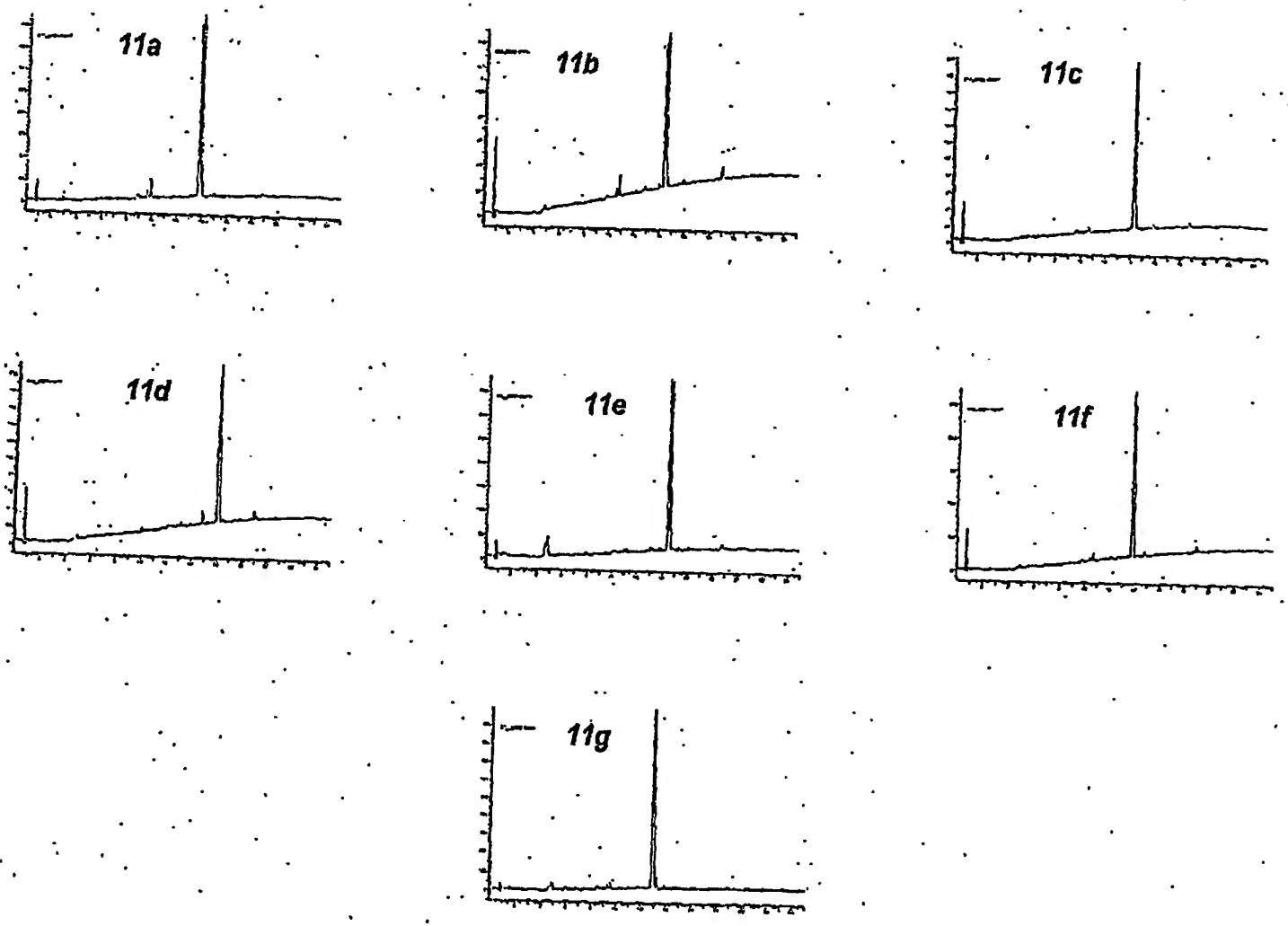
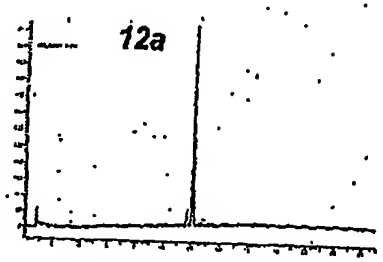
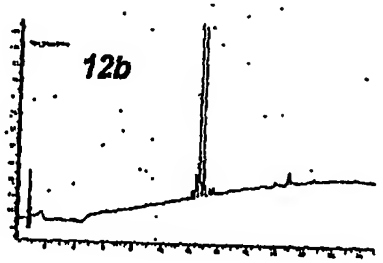
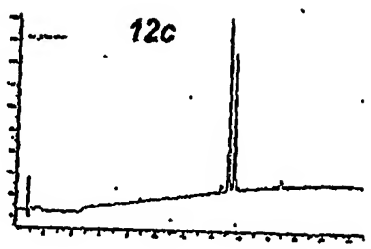
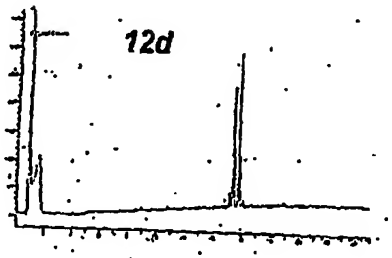


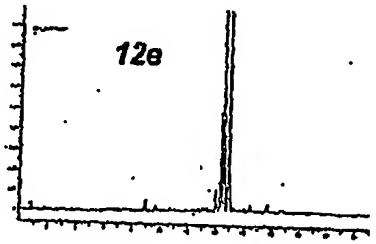
*Figure 12. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 1*

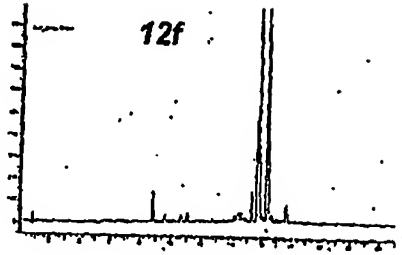


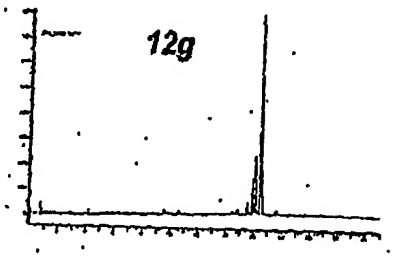



*Figure 13. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 2*

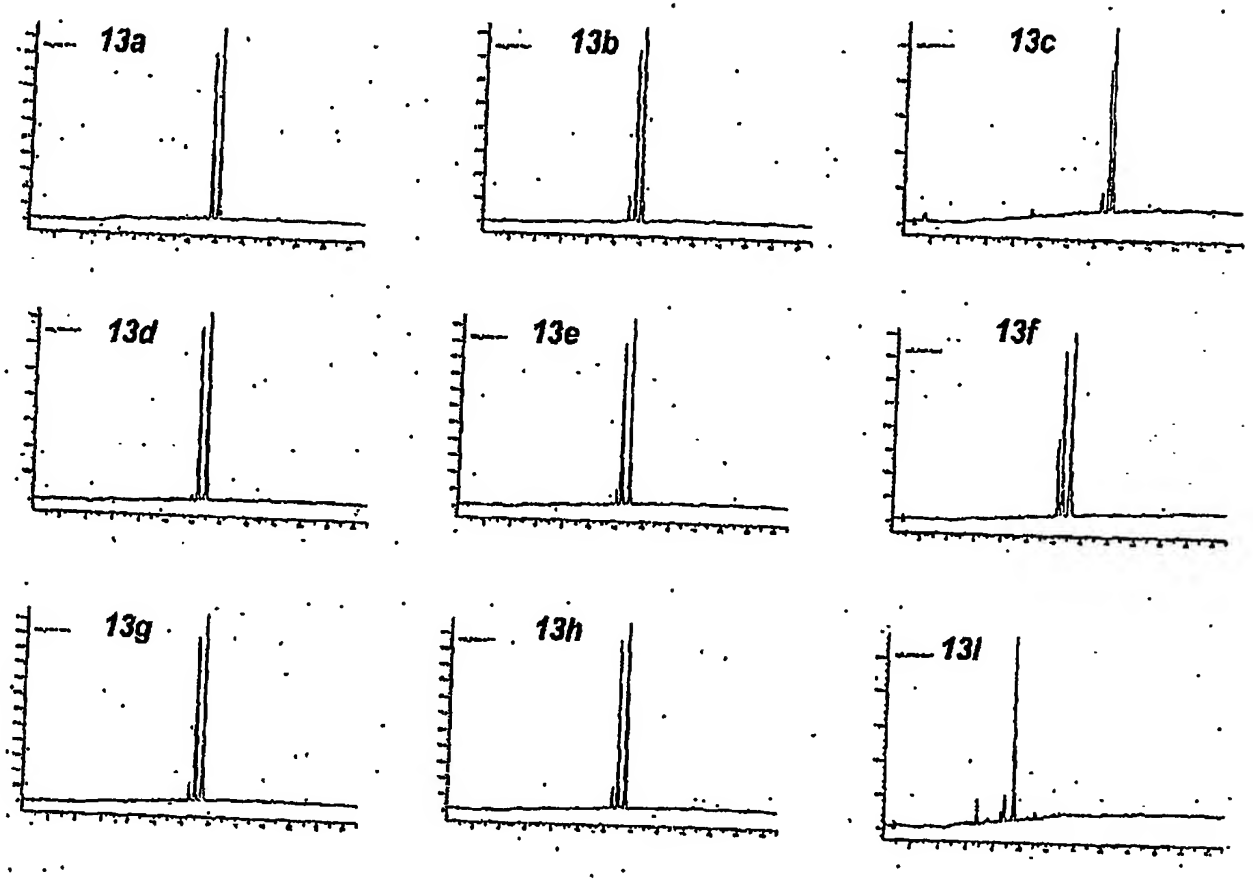


*Figure 14. Representative analytical HPLCs for Pictet-Spengler reaction products 3*